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Hafa Adai!

$1 Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CHCC confirms travel-related dengue case

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has confirmed a travel-related dengue case on Rota. The patient, who recently returned from traveling outside the CNMI, arrived on Rota with symptoms consistent with dengue. Specimens were collected and sent to a Guam laboratory for testing confirmation. CHCC is actively investigating the situation and have implemented prevention and mitigation efforts since the discovery date.

See CHCC on Page 4

FREEPIK.COM

Close-up of a mosquito on human skin

'SMA's intent to terminate services would jeopardize Tinian community's wellbeing'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Air Inc.'s recent threat to cease inter-island air service pursuant to a long-ongoing dispute with the Commonwealth Ports Authority over its fees has shaken up the island of Tinian whose well-being depends on SMA's air service.

Last Tuesday, SMA issued a letter to CNMI leaders informing them of its intent to cease its scheduled flight service for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by October should no resolution is reached between SMA and CPA regarding their

Aldan

See SMA on Page 4

NAP increases max allotment, income level eligibility

RACQUEL FLOYD
Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Margarita Aldan with NAP Administrator services manager Angel Demapan.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Nutrition Assistance Program currently has 5,364 household food stamp benefit recipients on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. The figure actually represents an estimated increase of 150 recipients from June 2023 to June 2024.

According to NAP administrator Margarita Aldan, for the past few months they received an average of 30 applications

See NAP on Page 4

NMI Democratic Party expresses support for Kamala Harris

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands has expressed its support for Vice President Kamala Harris' nomination as the Democratic Party's champion in the 2024 presidential race.

Over the weekend, President Joe Biden officially announced that he has rescinded his bid in the 2024

See NMI on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Thadeus Mateo Taisacan Biton, 20 years old, graduated from the U.S. Air Force last July 18 at the AFB Lackland, Texas.
PAGE 5

NATION
Donald Trump is holding his first public campaign rally since President Joe Biden dropped out of a 2024 matchup that both major parties had spent months preparing for.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
A Nevada judge rebuked a defense attorney and an ailing former Los Angeles-area gang leader lashed out against prosecutors during his renewed effort to be freed from jail to house arrest ahead of his trial in the 1996 killing of hip-hop legend Tupac Shakur.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

NMC

Participants of Camp PROA, a summer bridge camp hosted by Project PROA at Northern Marianas College, recently completed a two-week program on Saipan and Tinian that helped them prepare for college while learning about their cultural heritage. The participants, who consisted of high school students and graduates, also took part in career field trips, activities, and lectures that helped them gain experience in various fields within criminal justice, business, education, natural resource management, and STEM.

ZONING

... to improve our island's quality of life!

Public Notice of Proposed Zoning Regulations
Arongorongol Toulap reel Ppwommwol Mwóghutughutúl Zoning
Nutisian Pupbliku Put I Maproponi Na Regulasion Zoning Siha

The public is invited to review and provide comments on the proposed NABPMA of 2018 **REGULATIONS** on before **August 12, 2024.** You may view the regulations on https://cnmilaw.org, or website https://cnmizoning.com, or at the Zoning Office in Chalan Laulau (234-9661/2).

Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 (NABPMA)

Call us at 234-9661/2 or visit the Zoning Office in Chalan Laulau for more information.

Local

Project PROA hosts summer bridge camp for HS students, incoming freshmen

Northern Marianas College's Project PROA (Promotion Retention Opportunities Advancement) is proud to announce the completion of Camp PROA, a two-week summer program that prepares high school students for college success while allowing them to strengthen their ties to their cultural heritage with various activities and field trips.

The program was open to current high school students and recent graduates who self-identify as Pacific Islander or Asian American, per grant requirements. Camp PROA was aimed at helping students be college and career ready through various engaging activities and opportunities in STEM fields and more.

The camp was held at Kagman Community Center in collaboration with the Division of Youth Services from July 1 to 12, 2024 on Saipan and Northern Marianas College Tinian Center on Tinian, simultaneously.

Project PROA is working to expand its partnership with agencies across the CNMI to improve student college and career readiness by providing students with engaging activities and opportunities in various STEM fields. In the morning, participants explored each academic program offered at Northern Marianas College, which gave them a good overview of their options. In addition, participants connected with a panel of current and recent graduates of each program, which provided first hand insights into the programs and expectations of college. In the afternoon, participants visited partnering agencies to learn about potential career paths in the CNMI.

Partnering agencies on Saipan include all NMC programs and offices (Office of the President, Office of Institutional Advancement, Financial Aid Office, Science Math Health and Athletics Program, Criminal Justice Program, Natural Resource Management Program, School of Education, School of Business) and partners from the Division of Youth Services, CREES-Family Community Youth Development, Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects, U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Division of Coastal Resource Management, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Friends of the Mariana Trench, Tupu Cane Juice, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Project PROA is a federally-funded program under the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution grants and serves both high school and college students. ***(PR)***

Championing hope: Nominate for the 2024 Bridge of Light Award

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence invites the community to honor an extraordinary individual through the 2024 Bridge of Light Award. This award recognizes advocates who have consistently shown dedication to supporting victims, survivors, and the entire community in addressing domestic and sexual violence in the CNMI.

"Recognizing these individuals emphasizes the ongoing need for support services and advocacy efforts to assist victims and survivors," said Kiki I. Benjamin, associate director of NMCADSV. "Their compassion and dedication create a ripple effect of healing and safety in our community."

Nominations are still open, and community participation is essential. Those who are interested in nominating a deserving candidate can visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOLA2024. The deadline for nominations is Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, at 11:59pm, ChST. Each nomination will be carefully reviewed, so detailed explanations of why the nominee deserves recognition are encouraged.

The 2024 Bridge of Light Award recipient will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony in October. The recipient will also have the opportunity to participate in a national training program provided by NMCADSV and will receive self-care prizes.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of domestic violence or sexual violence, assistance is available. Please call 911 for immediate emergency support or contact the 24/7 Karidat Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***

Businesses, Korean influencer conduct plogging on Bird Island Hike Trail

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

A number of businesses teamed up with Korean influencer Kingo to conduct plogging on the Bird Island Hike Trail last Friday, July 19.

Doyi Kim, Pacific Eco Laundry president, said 24 staff from a number of local businesses and Kingo were able to fill 21 trash bags of garbage during the beach cleanup.

"We gathered various types of trash comprising of plastic bottles, beer and soda cans, plastic packaging, snack wrappers, discarded fishnets, and other types of plastic debris," she said.

Kim said Kingo was a great addition to their beach cleanup and she also taught the group about plogging, which is a fast-growing trend in South Korea.

"During our recent beach cleanup we had the pleasure of welcoming Kingo, a Korean influencer who holds a deep affection for Saipan, having visited the island four times previously. Kingo enthusiastically joined our efforts, inspired by the Korean practice known as plogging. In Korea, plogging has gained popularity for its dual benefits of fitness and environmental care. Participants jog or walk while picking up litter, not only cleaning public spaces but also promoting a healthier lifestyle."

She added that having an influencer like Kingo join the cleanup was a wonderful example of how a simple idea like plogging can resonate globally and make a tangible impact locally.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Korean influencer Kingo, standings sixth from right, led 24 volunteers from various businesses in plogging at the Bird Island Trail Hike last Friday.

"Their enthusiasm and commitment underscored the importance of caring for our environment while enjoying the beauty of places like Saipan's beaches."

As to why the group chose the Bird Island Hike Trail to do their plogging, Kim said the area is one of Saipan's most popular spots for tourists and residents, known for its breathtaking views from the observatory above the mountain.

"However, visitors are often taken aback by the amount of litter on the beach below. Tourists are often surprised by the amount of trash they encounter when they visit. Given that the area is challenging to clean and is seldom included in beach cleanups, we decided to assemble a group to address the issue together. Our joint effort was aimed at preserving the natural beauty of Bird Island and ensuring it remains a stunning destination for everyone."

She added the Korean community and Saipan business owners often organize beach cleanups to maintain the cleanliness of Saipan's beaches and to support local beautification efforts.

"These initiatives not only contribute to preserving the natural beauty of our coastal areas but also foster a sense of community and environmental responsibility among residents and visitors. By working together, we aim to create a cleaner, more inviting environment for everyone to enjoy. This will certainly be a regular event, reflecting our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement," she said.

Kim then extended her heartfelt gratitude to the following participants and supporters of the Bird Island Trail Hike cleanup: Kingo (@kingo1398 and https://www.instagram.com/kingo1398/); Saipan Adventure manager Dada Park; SASAMO manager Tom Jang; Himawari Restaurant CEO Atsumi Kitagawa; CK Smoke House & Salad supervisor Andrew Estepa; Bada Art Cafe manager Sarah Lee; Loco Taco CEO Mickey Kim; and Monster Pizza Pub CEO James Kim.

"Together, we are making a positive impact on preserving the natural beauty of Saipan's beaches and fostering community spirit. Thank you for your commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement," she said.

Water service interruption for Sinapalo I on Rota today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there is a water service interruption today, July 25, 2024, affecting customers in Sinapalo I on Rota.

Customers in the area will experience low to no water pressure between the specified hours. Please allow one to two hours for the water lines to pressurize fully.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure reliable service for its customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact the CUC Rota office at (670) 532-9411/4. ***(PR)***

Job Vacancy Announcement

ANAKS GENERAL MANAGER

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Bachelor's degree from a U.S.- accredited institution, or equivalent
2. Four or more years' experience in a management position
3. Computer literate, proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), email, Internet searches. Knowledge of accounting software, Quicken, a plus.
4. Strong organizational, supervisory, problem-solving and communication skills
5. U.S. citizen/Permanent resident
6. Multilingual a plus (Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Maintain accurate, up-to-date financial records according to generally accepted accounting principles.
2. Provide financial statements to the Board of Directors as requested.
3. Ensure compliance with all federal and local laws, tax requirements, annual corporate reports, and other reporting requirements.
4. Responsible for determining staffing requirements, hiring, training, supervising, and evaluating all ANAKS employees, including establishing working hours, ensuring the payment of wages and deduction of employment taxes, obtaining Workers Compensation insurance, preparing an annual personnel budget, and managing all other aspects of ANAKS staffing.
5. Prepare and distribute monthly billing statements to all homeowners and/or tenants, as applicable.
6. Establish an effective and timely system for collecting owners'/tenants' monthly management fees and other receivables due.
7. Monitor water and electricity usage for all units and prepare billings accordingly.
8. Ensure efficient, prompt payment to all vendors, suppliers, contractors, etc.
9. Establish and implement maintenance schedules for reverse osmosis water system, generators, pumps, sewer system, swimming pool, tennis court, and other ANAKS equipment and infrastructure.
10. Maintain an inventory of necessary spare replacement parts to ensure smooth operation of water system, generators, swimming pool, and other equipment as needed.
11. Ensure that all common areas including the swimming pool area, garbage houses, roadways, tennis court, walkways, etc. are clean, well-maintained and in good condition, and grounds and landscaping are attractive and regularly maintained.
12. Keep the Board informed of major preventive maintenance costs, emergencies, repairs, and replacements per the Board's Expenditure Policy.
13. Conduct routine inspections of the exterior of all units and make recommendations for repairs and improvements.
14. Work closely with, and provide administrative support to the Board of Directors (attend board and committee meetings, draft meeting minutes, enforce policies/bylaws/regulations, budgeting) to continuously improve and beautify the complex.
15. Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for day-to-day operations, maintenance, procurement of products and services, financial management, etc.; and human resources tasks such as staff performance evaluations, employee development/training, employee recognition, disciplinary and grievance procedures, etc.
16. Other duties as assigned by the President or Board of Directors.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, recent police clearance, and professional references via email to: office1@anaks.net by August 7, 2024. Please include "General Manager Application" in the subject line.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400119

SUBMISSION DATE: August 27, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Paupau Beach Playground, Saipan."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 25, 2024** at Technical Services Divi-sion, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **Paupau Beach Project Site, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m, ChST local time on August 20, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING JULY 16, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL **(RFP-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 15, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: July 16, 2024

NAP

From page 1

per month for the program and agreed when asked if a rise in applications could indicate the economic situation in the CNMI.

"Because if we get an increase, we know that companies are closing or companies are reducing their hours and when they are coming (the applicants), we see that in the application too, because they have to put in their income there, you know, check stub or what other resource they have, if there is zero income," said Aldan.

NAP Administrator Services manager Angel Demapan mentioned that individuals can be eligible for the food stamps benefit if their income falls within the bracket.

"When there is a reduction of hours, and that reduction results in that individual or that household meeting the income threshold, then it brings them into the eligibility bracket. Some people have reductions in hours, but it's still above the income level, so they don't, they cannot apply for that assistance, '' said Demapan.

Meanwhile, NAP maximum allotments, income eligibility standards, and resource limits have been increased effective April 1, 2024, for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

An individual receiving a maximum allotment on Saipan was increased from $415 to $430, on Tinian from $439 to $455, and on Rota and the Northern Islands are just the same from $505 to $523.

The income eligibility standards and resource limits apply to all islands in the CNMI utilizing the same standards for eligibility determination wherein the income eligibility standard for an individual increased from $1,473 to $1,580 of monthly gross income.

Households (HH) of two max gross income eligibility increased from $1,984 to $2,137, while the max allotment on Saipan increased from $761 to $788, Tinian from $804 to $833, and Rota and Northern Islands from $925 to $958.

Max allotment for households of three on Saipan increased from $1,090 to $1,129, HH of four from $1,385 to $1,434, HH of five from $1,644 to $1,703, HH of six from $1,973 to $2,044, HH of seven from $2,181 to $2, 259, HH of eight from $2,493 to $2,581, HH of nine from $2,805 to $2,904, HH of 10 from $3,117 to $3,227, HH of 11 from $3,429 to $3,550, HH of 12 from $ 3,741 to $3,873, HH of 13 from $4,053 to $4,196, HH of 14 from $4,365 to $4,519, HH of 15 from $4,677 to $4,842, HH of 16 from $4,989 to $5,165, HH of 17 from $5,301 to $5,488, HH of 18 from $5,613 to $5,811, HH of 19 from $5,925 to $6,134, HH of 20 from $6,737 to $6,457, HH of 21 from $6,549 to $6,780, and HH 22 from $6,861 to $7,103.

For Tinian, the max allotment for households of three increased from $1,152 to $1,193, HH of four from $1,464 to $1,516, HH of five from $1,736 to $1,800, HH of six from $2,084 to $2,161 HH of seven from $2,304 to $2,338, HH of eight from $2,634 to $2,572, HH of nine from $2,964 to $3,070, HH of 10 from $3,294 to $3,411, HH of 11 from $3,624 to $3,752, HH of 12 from $ 3,954 to $4,094, HH of 13 from $4,284 to $4,435, HH of 14 from $4,614 to $4,777, HH of 15 from $4,944 to $5,118, HH of 16 from $5,274 to $5,459, HH of 17 from $5,604 to $5,801, HH of 18 from $5,934 to $6,142, HH of 19 from $6,264 to $6,484, HH of 20 from $6,594 to $6,825, HH of 21 from $6,924 to $7,166, and HH 22 from $7,254 to $7,508.

While on Rota and Northern Islands, the max allotment for households of three increased from $1,326 to $1,373, HH of four from $1,685 to $1,744, HH of five from $2,000 to $2,071, HH of six from $2,400 to $2,486 HH of seven from $2,652 to $2,747, HH of eight from $3,032 to $3,138, HH of nine from $3,411 to $3,531, HH of 10 from $3,791 to $3,924, HH of 11 from $4,171 to $4,317, HH of 12 from $34,550 to $4,710, HH of 13 from $4,920 to $5,102, HH of 14 from $5,309 to $5,495, HH of 15 from $5,689 to $5,888, HH of 16 from $6,096 to $6,281, HH of 17 from $6,448 to $6,673, HH of 18 from $6,828 to $7,066, HH of 19 from $7,202 to $7,459, HH of 20 from $7,587 to $7,852, HH of 21 from $7,986 to $8, 244, and HH 22 from $8,346 to $8,637.

The max gross income eligibility from HH of three increased from $2,495 to $2,694, HH of four from $3,007 to $3,250, HH of five from $3,518 to $3,807, HH of six from $4,029 to $4,364, HH of seven from $4,541 to $4,921, HH of eight from $5.052 to $ 5,478, HH of nine from $5,564 to $6,035, HH of 10 from $6,076 to $6,592, HH of 11 from $6,588 to $7,149, HH of 12 from $7,100 to $7,706, HH of 13 from $7,612 to $8,263, HH of 14 from $8,124 to $8,820, HH of 15 from $8,636 to $9,377, HH of 16 from $9,148 to $9,934, HH of 17 from $9,660 to $10,491, HH of 18 from $10,172 to $11,048, HH of 19 from $10,684 to $11,605, HH of 20 from $11,196 to $12,162, HH of 21 from $11,708 to $12,719, and HH of 22 from $12,220 to $13,276.

NMI

From page 1

presidential race and has ended his political campaign. After doing so, Biden officially endorsed Harris as the Democratic Party's nominee

According to an official statement from the Democratic Party of the NMI, immediately following the president's endorsement, the NMI along with state party chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors across the country solidified their support during a meeting with the Association of State Democratic Chairs.

Democratic Party of the NMI vice chair Luella Marciano stated that she pledges her support for the State party's decision.

"I pledged my support right away with the efforts that were circulated, and during the call I was elated to hear not one vote in opposition of VP Harris as our nominee. A lot has happened since our presidential primary in March, and I firmly believe that every challenge, and turning point has motivated us to do better, and be better. We will continue to 'build back better' and honor the legacy of the President."

Party treasurer Shawna Indalecio, who's also a delegate, expressed that she'll always be a proud Democrat.

"I love our party, honored to serve, to be a delegate, and to have voted for Biden-Harris as the nominee twice now. I'm aligned with a party that recognizes me as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, and among the first to serve in our party's history. On a national level, there's a huge difference with our rights being stripped away by Republicans every day. There's only one party that fights for us, and Democrats are fired up! We've embarked on this journey together, and these blue waves are pushing forward," she said.

Executive director Nola Hix, for her part, said we're living in a pivotal time in our party's history where so much progress has been made, but there's still so much work to do

"Our people, and future generations are depending on us to continue the fight for women's rights, Social Security, Medicare, Affordable Health Care, climate action, LGBTQIA+ rights, marriage equality, gun safety reform, voting rights, and so much more. My daughters need to know that we are fighting for their future, they can be whatever they want, and they can also hold the highest seat in the nation if they choose," she said.

NMI delegates who were elected during their presidential primary in March are also in full support of Vice President Harris as their party's nominee.

"Our delegation has not changed and neither has our vote. We stand in solidarity with our fellow Democrats in the territories and across the country united to retain the White House in November. We are mobilized and energized for the work ahead and Vice President Kamala Harris has our full support," the statement said.

SMA

From page 1

long-standing battle over airport fees.

Yesterday, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan wrote to SMA chair Robert Christian urgently seeking reconsideration and expressing the deep concerns of the people of Tinian following SMA's announcement that it intends to terminate its inter-island transportation services between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, effective Oct. 15, 2024.

"This announcement has raised significant alarm within our community, and I urge you to reconsider this decision, as it will have a profound impact on the Tinian economy and the livelihoods of our residents," he said.

Aldan shared that Tinian is home to over 2,000 people who rely heavily on Star Marianas to access essential institutions on Saipan such as hospitals, businesses, and government and judicial institutions.

"The termination of your services would not only disrupt these vital connections but also jeopardize the well-being and economic stability of Tinian families. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your positive response and am hopeful that together we can find a path forward that benefits all parties involved," said Aldan.

In response, SMA chair Christian said the issues Aldan raised are "misdirected"

"While we fully understand the seriousness of the situation and share your concerns about maintaining essential air services for Tinian, we believe the issues you have raised are somewhat misdirected. The primary challenge we face is not a lack of willingness on Star's part to continue providing vital air services but rather the unsustainable fee structure imposed by CPA," he said.

Christian explains that CPA's fees make it economically unviable for the airline to operate under the current conditions.

"Our decision to consider suspending services stems directly from the CPA's actions and fee assessments, which are not aligned with the principles of compensatory fees. The current fee methodology lacks transparency, detailed cost allocation, and a fair treatment of common use areas, all of which result in charges that do not accurately reflect our actual usage of airport facilities and services. These practices impose a disproportionate financial burden on Star, jeopardizing our ability to sustain operations," he said.

Christian, in closing, urged the Tinian Municipality to set up a discussion between other CNMI leaders to intervene in the unfortunate situation between SMA and CPA.

"Given the critical importance of air service to the community, we believe that a more productive approach would be to address these fee structure issues directly with the CPA. We suggest organizing a discussion involving the governor, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the CPA to work toward a fair and transparent fee structure that ensures the sustainability of essential air services. We look forward to working together to find a solution that supports the needs of the Tinian community while ensuring the viability of Star's operations," said Christian.

CHCC

From page 1

As a precautionary measure, CHCC's Environmental Health & Disease Prevention team has conducted thorough inspections to identify and eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites to prevent further transmission. The patient's residence is being closely monitored, and the team is working diligently to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. CHCC assures the public that proactive measures are being taken to address and mitigate any potential risk.

Dengue is a viral disease mainly spread to people by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. Human-to-human transmission is rare.

Symptoms of dengue typically may be mild or severe and include fever, nausea, vomiting, rash, and body aches. Symptoms usually begin within two weeks after being bitten by an infected mosquito, and typically last two to seven days. Most people will recover after about a week.

There is no specific medicine to treat dengue. U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recommends to rest as much as possible and take acetaminophen to control fever and relieve pain, but avoid taking aspirin or ibuprofen. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids, such as water or drinks with added electrolytes. For mild symptoms, you can care for a sick infant, child, or family member at home.

Anyone who travels to an area with dengue is at risk for infection. The CDC advises travelers to practice usual precautions when traveling to areas of dengue risk. Travelers returning from an area with risk of dengue should take steps to prevent mosquito bites for three weeks, and if symptoms of dengue develop within two weeks upon return, should see medical evaluation.

According to the CDC, dengue is a common disease globally with outbreaks reported in regions such as the Caribbean, Central and South Americas, Southeast Asia, and Pacific Islands.

The community is urged to remain vigilant and take preventative measures like eliminating mosquito breeding sites. You can do this by:

- Cleaning up of all debris, especially those that can hold water.
- Disposing loose tires.
- Cleaning pet water dishes regularly.
- Cleaning, emptying, and properly screening or covering containers used to store water.
- Clearing roof gutters of debris.
- Properly disposing of all bottles, cans, buckets, and other containers that can collect water.
- Plugging tree holes.
- Repairing leaky outdoor faucets so not to create standing water.
- Changing the water frequently in flower vases and other containers that routinely contain water, including pet dishes.

It is also advised to wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing during outdoor activities as mosquitos are attracted to dark colors. When practical, wear long-sleeves and pants when going outdoors. Proper application of mosquito repellents that contain 20% to 30% DEET as the active ingredient on exposed skin and clothing decreases the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.

For more information about dengue, symptoms and treatment of dengue, and more please visit www.cdc.com. To contact the EHDP office, call (670) 236-22022/27/28 or email john.tagabuel@chcc.health. ***(PR)***

Rota son graduates from US Air Force

Thadeus Mateo Taisacan Biton, 20 years old, graduated from the U.S. Air Force last July 18 at the AFB Lackland, Texas.

He was born and raised on Rota and spent the first three years of his primary school at the Sinapalo Elementary School. A proud Rota local island boy from the CNMI pledges to defend the people of our great nation and its Flag.

Biton is the grandson of the late Mateo and Sabina Hocog Manglona Taisacan and he is the great grandson of the late Clemente Saralu Taisacan and Juana Atalig Maratita (paternal) and Lucio Masga Manglona and Milagro Songao Hocog Manglona (maternal). His proud parents are Trina Gale Manglona Taisacan and Mario Biton.

Biton has seven siblings—Teosy Glo, Tricel Gee, Tiana Hope, Nida Mae, Isaac Ross, Daverish, and Mahya Nicole. Additionally, he is greatly supported by his close friends Sabina Taisacan, Janessa and Charley Dana Torres, and Aiden Tenorio Mundo.

He continues to represent his roots and proudly represents the CNMI. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thadeus Mateo Taisacan Biton poses after graduating from the U.S. Air Force last July 18 at the AFB Lackland, Texas.

CUC to conduct smoke test for CK on July 26

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled smoke test on Olympio Ave. in Chalan Kanoa this Friday, July 26, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

The purpose of the smoke test is to allow wastewater personnel to perform a sewer connection inspection method.

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke makes its way through all connected pipes in the sewer system, thereby indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects. Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic and nonhazardous and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residuals or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled smoke test on Olympio Ave. in Chalan Kanoa this Friday.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it works to ensure reliable service for its customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

NMPASI closed July 25-26

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. office will be closed from Thursday, July 25, to Friday, July 26, 2024 for professional development.

Regular office hours will resume on Monday, July 29, 2024, from 8am to 5pm. For more information, call (670) 235-7273/74. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Amendment No. 3

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2024-006

(This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)

MARIANAS HIGH-SCHOOL CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting sealed bids for the Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project.

The proposed project activity will be an approximately 42,000 square-foot, reinforced concrete two story building. The new facility will include technical education classrooms include automotive workshop, culinary arts training kitchen, performing arts theatre, mock-up hotel room, various classrooms, flexible spaces, electrical room, telecom room, storage space, office space, designated loading area, restrooms, fire pump room, water tank, exterior walkways, and an exterior enclosure for mechanical equipment.

The site improvements include perimeter sidewalks, training kitchen garden, grading as the building is raised 2' above existing grade, driveway to allow vehicles access to the theatre back of house, and driveway to the automotive workshop.

Site water will be connected through a new connection along Beach Road. The facility's sanitary sewer system will connect to the existing sewer gravity lines within the campus Power will be routed from Beach Road and to a new pad mounted transformer just west of the building.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The Project Package will be available beginning **April 30, 2024,** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2024-006.** For Bidders within the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies of sealed bids and one (1) USB flash drive must be submitted to the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 p.m. ~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Bid.** Notice of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 234-9021, or via email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies and one (1) USB Flash Drive of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024,** and must be received at NMHC no later than **~~July 30, 2024~~ August 06, 2024.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan at **2:30 p.m.** local **~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024.** However, if notice of intent to bid is received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:00 p.m.** local time on **~~July 31, 2024~~ August 07, 2024.**

Bid Security: Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid which maybe a Bid Bond (form enclosed) in cash, by certified check, cashiers' check or other form acceptable to NMHC.

Bidding Procedures shall be in compliance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations (NMIAC § 100-60)

Breach of Ethical Standard

NMIAC § 100-60-725 (a) Gratuities and Kickbacks

Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.

Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.

NMIAC 100-60-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees

Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure NMHC contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

]NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

President Joe Biden finally bows to the inevitable

Joe Biden began his national political career in 1972, improbably ousting a Republican senator in Delaware at the age of 29. Biden was so young that he was elected before he was old enough, per the Constitution, to serve in the Senate. He turned 30 on Nov. 20 of that year, enabling him to take the seat in early 1973.

He ended his career Sunday some 52 years later as the oldest president in U.S. history, a man forced to step aside from a reelection campaign less than four months before voters go to the polls by leaders in his own party who determined his elderly state made him unelectable. The weekend timing might have been a surprise but the exit was inevitable.

Simply put, Biden had lost the support of the vast majority of his party and, crucially, also those who burnish its coffers.

Both William Shakespeare and the ancient Greeks excelled at writing tragedies, and the story of Joe Biden is one squarely in a tradition reaching back thousands of years. The brash upstart becomes the hubristic old lion who doesn't realize when his time is up and is forced under the white-hot spotlight to suffer a humiliating end to his story of public life. He became part an Oedipus and part a King Lear, howling with rage at a perceived injustice actually born of his own mortality.

So what to make of America's 46th president now that his ill-considered initial choice to run has left his party in a chaotic shambles as it again faces an ascendent Donald Trump, a presidential candidate Democrats both fear and detest?

In many respects, this spectacular miscalculation reflects the Joe Biden that Americans of a certain age have long known.

He's a man who has repeatedly made mistakes—bad ones at times—and has made many other poor decisions.

His first run for the presidency in 1988 crumbled after the emergence of credible plagiarism allegations in a speech he gave. His leadership as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman of Clarence Thomas' 1991 Supreme Court confirmation hearings, in which he gave short shrift to the sexual-harassment allegations of Anita Hill, a former aide to Thomas, was a notable blemish on his record for which he later apologized. He voted against President George H.W. Bush's war against Iraq in 1991 and in favor of President George W. Bush's war against Iraq in 2002. With the benefit of hindsight, most would say those votes should have been reversed.

In short, while Biden has been a man gifted with the political appeal of relatability for the working-class voters who often decide presidential elections, he hasn't always been a great decision-maker.

So it was in April 2023 when Biden announced he would run for reelection. Even at the time, there were misgivings about his age. Those grew rapidly. By late last year, polls showed age to be an acute Biden vulnerability. And the evidence of his decline, to the extent Americans were permitted to glimpse it given the White House's obvious efforts to shield Biden from embarrassing "senior moments," was there for all to see.

The party—and, let's be honest, some partisans in the me-

See BIDEN on Page 7

And you promise there's no fentanyl in these drugs?
Hey... don't worry! You're going to get high as a kite on these drugs!
DRUGS
THOUSANDS DYING FROM FENTANYL DRUG OVERDOSES!

Why Yale Law is so good at producing reactionaries like JD Vance

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."

JD Vance's Yale Law School pedigree came up at least a dozen times at the Republican National Convention. His degree from the institution gives the inexperienced Vance more legitimacy and validates his Horatio Alger story.

The use of elite educational credentials by populist critics of elite education isn't new. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who went to Yale College and Harvard Law School, did a version of the same thing when he was running for president. Senator Josh Hawley, he of the raised fist on Jan. 6, graduated from Yale Law in 2006. Representative Elise Stefanik, who spent much of the past year grilling college presidents on Capitol Hill, graduated from Harvard College. And Trump himself likes to brag about his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School (although at the time, over half of applicants were accepted).

But Vance's degree is central to his narrative in a way that it's not for those other politicians. Admission to Yale was his main accomplishment when he wrote his best-selling memoir, Hillbilly Elegy. It cemented his rise to the elite. It framed Vance as an effective source to "explain" poor White politics (and poor White dysfunction) to the NPR-listening, tote-bag carrying, book-buying public. It's no exaggeration to say that, without Yale Law School, there could be no phenomenon of JD Vance—at least, not by the tender age of 39.

Yale Law has also played a vital role in legal conservatism. At the Supreme Court, Justices Clarence Thomas ('74) and Samuel Alito ('75) have gone from being peripheral voices to becoming the authors of major new conservative opinions that seem likely to last at least a generation. One of the reasons they have such influence now is the appointment of Justice Brett Kavanaugh (Yale Law '90). The court currently has an unprecedented four Yale lawyers, including liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor ('79). Together they account for nearly half of the nine Yale law school graduates that have ever sat court.

What makes the prominence of these figures fascinating is that there are so few conservative graduates of Yale Law School. A generation ago, Bill and Hillary Clinton, also both graduates of Yale Law, brought an extended network of their liberal classmates and friends to Washington. Such liberal Yale Law graduates are not hard to find — and remain prominent in a wide range of legal jobs, especially as professors. (I went there myself.)

Yale's conservatives are something else again. The law school is small to begin with, graduating only around 200 students a year, meaning there are about 600 law students at a time. And while there's no official count, the number of those who identify as conservative is not likely to be much greater than 10% — and might be smaller. Consider: The photo on the homepage of the Yale Federalist Society chapter features just 20 students.

Their rarity is doubtless one reason Yale Law conservatives ascend so quickly. Consider judicial clerkships. More than half of federal judges are conservative and look for clerks who will support their world view. At the Supreme Court, the conservative-to-liberal ratio is 2 to 1. That gives conservative students a significant leg up, statistically speaking.

As important, however, is the experience of alienation shared by so many Yale Law conservatives, which seems to harden their political views and also becomes a central part of their narratives. Thomas and Alito have both spoken extensively of feeling like outsiders at Yale. Neither came from the upper or upper-middle class. (Kavanaugh, in contrast, who did grow up upper-middle class, used to speak warmly about his social experiences at Yale and remains a relatively moderate conservative.)

Vance, who grew up poor, also experienced a sense of alienation at Yale, one he emphasized in his book and has played up further in his political career. For him, as for Thomas and Alito, Yale Law became a double-edged component of his self-perception and self-presentation. On the one hand, having gone there proves one is now a member of the elite. On the other, being exposed to Yale elites confirms one's belief that populist conservatism is the right way to see the world.

Vance benefited enormously from Yale, making the connections that helped him to find a top-tier literary agent and launch his career in Silicon Valley. And it's in part in hopes of providing this kind of elevator for working class students that elite institutions like Yale believe in the value of admitting students from a wide range of backgrounds. I believe in it myself.

But one result is the inevitable emergence of people who use their elite experience to become proponents of anti-elitism. That's their right.

I would venture to suggest, however, that elite institutions can and should do better in being aware of and trying to minimize the alienation associated with being any kind of an outsider there—whether based on social class, race, religion, or conservative politics. Some culture shock is inevitable so long as elite educational institutions draw so heavily on the children of economic and educational elites. Yet we can teach our students, from day one through graduation, to think harder about the experiences of others, and to take some of the moralizing out of their encounters with people who think differently. The real-world effects might give us more thoughtful graduates and fewer reactionaries.

A presidential assassination attempt offers a time to reflect

By GLENN NYE
The Fulcrum

In the wake of an assassination attempt on an American presidential candidate, we are right to take a moment to reflect on the current trajectory of our politics, as we reject violence as an acceptable path and look for ways to cool the kinds of political rhetoric that might radicalize Americans to the point of normalizing brute force in our politics.

Even though the motivations of the July 13 shooter are yet unclear, it's worth taking a moment to try to reset ourselves and make an earnest effort to listen to our better angels. However, unless we change the way we reward politicians in our electoral system, it is very likely that the opportunity of this moment to calm our politics will be lost, like many others before it.

We have a fundamental problem in our politics that negates efforts to encourage politicians to take a better road, or the media to play a healthier role.

As long as our electoral system incentivizes politicians to engage in incendiary rhetoric and push the bounds of civility, and rewards this behavior with election or re-election, all our best efforts to appeal to logic and good sense are limited to marginal potential effect.

As long as media outlets have a business model that rewards focus on dramatic storylines and bombastic political behavior, then that is where their focus will remain.

And as long as we leave the responsibility for voter turnout to the campaigns instead of our society as a whole, we will continue to have an incentive for campaigns to engage in manipulative rule-crafting and radical appeals to emotion, because those are the proven ways to determine who shows up at election time.

The silver lining is that we have a pathway to changing the incentive built into the electoral system itself. Ideas for such reform are covered almost daily in this outlet, and momentum is building across the states. There are election innovations on the ballot this November in Nevada, Oregon and South Dakota, with others pending, that would change the incentive structure for candidates, compelling them to appeal to a much broader set of voters so they can make the majority requirement to win office. Unfortunately, there are also efforts on ballots, for example in Alaska, to undo or preclude such election innovations from continuing.

If we truly want to change political rhetoric past this moment, maintaining focus on these reforms is vital. It won't fix all that is wrong with the course of our politics or heal all the divisions, but it would place a fundamentally different set of incentives in place that are shown to actually work. Without mandating voting, as Australia does for example, the problem of campaign responsibility for turnout will remain, but some of the ill effect could be moderated if candidates have to appeal to a majority to win, rather than a hard-core plurality.

Current attention is naturally on former President Donald Trump, who, in the aftermath of surviving a brutal assassination attempt that sadly took the life of a bystander, spoke of unity and who reportedly intended to amend his approach during the convention to strike a more civil tone.

Having been one of the chief practitioners of incendiary rhetoric, the idea that he might seek to lower the political temperature is certainly welcome. If for example, he chose to reflect on the Jan. 6, 2021, riot and define that as the kind of violent behavior we should avoid in our politics, and call on his own followers to put aside incendiary descriptions of political adversaries in the best interests of the country, he might have some immediate positive effect on the coarse nature of political dialogue in America.

We would still have to wonder, though, how long we could rely on the good will of politicians whose electoral prospects are raised by appealing to the emotions of that small and extreme element of our politics that dominate primary election contests, or improved by the ability to fire up low propensity voters with existential and apocalyptic warnings about the intentions of their political foes. As long as those behaviors win elections, the incentive to engage in them will remain overwhelming.

Fortunately, we have answers to some of the structural questions. But if we allow ourselves to believe that simply calling on political leaders to do better or be more civil will put us on a better path, we will fail.

Glenn Nye is the president and CEO of the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress and a former member of Congress from Virginia.

Making America sane again

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

American politics these days almost makes you want to hide out in your basement, avoiding, for instance, a televised debate in which President Joe Biden took on former President Donald Trump with an indecipherable jumble of words making just one point, namely that he had no idea what he was talking about.

Soon enough, a mighty gang of fellow Democrats, even including Barack Obama, his former boss, said that it was time for Biden to give up aspirations for another term that could instead deliver another term to troublesome Trump. Biden said go away, leave me alone, cut it out until the pride-stifling bombardment beat him to a pulp and he surrendered.

By then, of course, there had been another pre-election incident putting ordinary political hijinks to shame, a sickening attempt to assassinate Trump as he was speaking to an outdoors crowd in Butler, Pa. Preparing for a GOP convention in Milwaukee, Wis., nominating him for the asserted sake of national greatness, he turned his head an inch or so just in time to suffer a wound to an ear instead of having his brain blown to pieces.

"Fight, fight, fight," he yelled back at intruders on his dreams, including, of course, this fatally accosted shooter whose bullets had dreadfully killed an innocent man in the Trump crowd. This guy had easily sneaked past insufficiently directed federal security guards, thereby miserably failing to instill any trust in Washington, D.C.

Before offering details about a lively, loving GOP crowd and favorable mention of J. D. Vance, Trump's vice-presidential choice, let me note that powerful Democrats were being anti-democratic if nevertheless vindicated in their hit on Biden. He had won more than 14 million delegates in primaries, easily enough to confirm him as the party's 2024 candidate for president, and why, exactly, were so many of the party's congressional kings and queens then so determined to assault his constitutionally supported ambition?

Well, the Trump debate of sense vs. goofiness inspired public awareness of Biden's dramatic deficiencies shown regularly on such outlets as Fox News' multiple videos of a seeming escapee from a dementia den. Biden, at the age of 81, may be at the top of this pitiable performance, but understand that, just as he has had a 50-year political career with some notable achievements, he has long been guilty of occasional mindlessness or deception.

His presidency has also been fierce in its policy shame, such as letting Iran off the financial hook for Israeli desecration to the point of Iran doing what dreadful harm it pleased through the actions of others it directs. As president, Trump prevented such behavior through monetary acts and warnings.

With Biden not seeking another run, not a few want the job to go to his vice president, Kamala Harris, maybe the least competent of all Washington politicians. Biden gave her the special duty as VP to be our southern border czar and she did nothing the least bit meaningful as more migrants suffered death in their northern treks, parentless migrant teens were forced into illegal work including prostitution and thousands of American adults and children were killed by smuggled drugs. Crime increased, cities were wrecked, schools were overworked and converted to round-the-clock dwellings and hospitals were also overcrowded.

Many of her staffers hated Harris and quit, but that won't be an option for citizens of our nation, which is one reason to applaud Trump's good-humored, sensible-seeming, eager and excited convention crowd as he actually talked of national unity in a mostly mellow tone.

Excuse me. Trump also offers a lot to worry about, but please read the "Hillbilly Elegy" memoir by his ultra-wise pick of a vice presidential running mate, Senator J.D. Vance, who was raised in the worst possible poverty and went on to Iraq service in the Marines, became a Yale-educated lawyer, a businessman and a senator and who thinks so, so deeply about so, so much. There are questions here, but he just might help make Trump a great president, if not again, at least this time out.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CNMI SPJ supports freedom of the press

The CNMI Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists supports the recent statement by the *Marianas Variety* defending its reporter Bryan Manabat's reporting amid allegations of defamation.

As the *Marianas Variety* reviews the allegations in detail, CNMI SPJ echoes the newspaper president and publisher Amier C. Younis' statement to uphold the principles of a free and independent press.

In any circumstance, journalists who report truthfully and abide by the SPJ code of ethics ought to be able to do their job without intimidation or fear of retribution.

We respect the legal process as it is also part of the Society of Professional Journalists' national mission to defend journalists and protect the First Amendment.

CNMI Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists

BIDEN

From page 6

dia—reproached Americans for questioning Biden's stamina and clear diminishment. Biden soldiered on, confident in his belief that the election would turn on Americans' desire not to relive the chaotic Trump era rather than his record and, more importantly, his clear ability to do the job for another four years.

He was wrong, as we all now know. It was most consequential blunder of his career.

As Democrats move on to determine who their presidential standard-bearer now will be under the tightest of deadlines, Biden's overall legacy will continue to be debated. Time may be kinder than most Democrats feel in a moment when Biden did not make it easy for his party.

There have been many bright spots, of course. His single term was a welcome return to a presidency in which Americans didn't have to think virtually every day about what the occupant was doing or saying. He worked hard—and ultimately successfully—to ensure continued U.S. support for Ukraine in its existential battle with Russia. And, to his credit, he stood by his long-held principles when it came to supporting Israel, if not always its current administration.

Biden also points, with justification, to a decent economic record, marked by substantial job growth and a bullish stock market. The rough post-pandemic inflationary pressures soured Americans on their economic fortunes, and Biden could do little to tame them or convince the public things were better than polls reflected. He wasn't the first president to be burned by inflation, and he won't be the last.

As vice president, Biden was an able and wise counselor to Barack Obama and an indispensable administration emissary to his former colleagues on Capitol Hill. That the veteran senator who'd first taken office when Obama was just 11 would agree to play second fiddle to the nation's first Black president is not forgotten by Black voters, who've emerged as perhaps Biden's final firewall of support since he shockingly flubbed his debate with Trump more than three weeks ago.

There's no small amount of irony, then, that it was Obama who helped dissuade Biden from running to succeed him in 2016, choosing instead to support Hillary Clinton. Democrats ever since, including Biden, have wondered whether the country would have been spared Trump in the first place had Obama chosen otherwise. It's quite possibly the case.

Biden's life story is one of uncommon resilience.

He famously almost quit his newly won Senate seat after his wife and daughter were killed in a car crash but ultimately carried on, commuting back and forwards via train from the capital to Wilmington, Del., so he could tend to his two sons who survived the crash.

As in those timeless tragedies, though, Biden's belief that the only response to setbacks and losses was, in his words, to "get back up," it failed him in the end.

Alas, there's no prevailing over the ravages of age, which arrive at different moments for different people and do so without regard to deserving.

Grit and toughness no longer are enough at some point toward the end. The trick is knowing when to leave the stage. And having the courage to know that the right moment is probably one when you still feel far from done in your own head.

The compensation for our physical and cognitive declines as we get older is the wisdom gleaned from all those years.

Biden thought that experience could beat Trumpism and cheat Father Time. As he exits the political ring, both of those mythologies still are standing.

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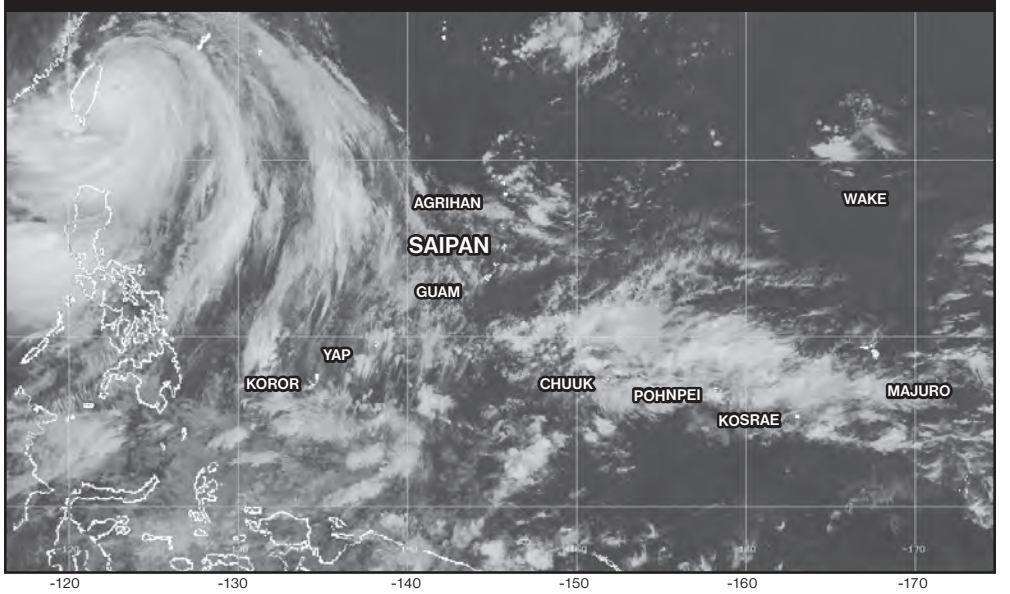
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:39 AM TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Noticed an area of 20 knot winds near Guam Thursday and Thursday night. This is likely an area of convective feedback, so updated the first 48 hours of grids versus just 24 hours. Otherwise little change from the previous forecast grids. The competing easterly trade-wind and westerly typhoon swells will maintain a moderate risk of rip currents along both east and west reefs through the weekend. Seas of 3 to 5 feet will combine with winds of 10 to 15 knots. This will create benign marine condtions within the Marianas Waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 81°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:26 AM	9:59 PM
Friday	-	10:23 AM	10:40 PM
Saturday	-	11:19 AM	11:21 PM
Sunday	-	12:17 PM	-
Monday	2:05 AM	1:15 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Beijing	Fair	98° / 84°
Hong Kong	Fair	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	79° / 60°
Manila	Rain	81° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 57°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 68°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	73° / 68°
Tokyo	Rain Shower	95° / 75°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	91° / 73°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:43 AM	Low Tide	1.19
9:42 AM	High Tide	2.07
4:45 PM	Low Tide	0.10
11:25 PM	High Tide	2.17

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Senate to consider bills that aim to protect children and teenagers online

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate will consider legislation this week that aims to protect children from dangerous online content, moving forward with what could become the first sweeping new regulation of the tech industry in decades.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Tuesday that he will bring the bipartisan bill up in the Senate, with hopes of passing it before the chamber leaves for its August recess. The legislation had stalled for months even as more than two-thirds of the Senate signed on to support it and families of children who have suffered online bullying and harm advocated for its passage.

Schumer said on the Senate floor that the bill is "personal" for him after meeting in recent months with parents of children who died by suicide after they were harassed online, targeted by predators or had their information stolen. The parent advocates say social media and other tech companies need to do more to try to help prevent trauma endured by children and teenagers who inevitably spend a lot of their time online.

"Social media has helped hundreds of millions of people connect in new ways over the last two decades," Schumer said. "But there are also new and sometimes serious health risks that come along with those benefits. We cannot set these risks aside. On this issue, we desperately need to catch up."

The online safety bill, which the Senate will consider along with a separate bill to update child online privacy laws, would be the first major tech regulation package to move in years. While there has long been bipartisan support for the idea that the biggest technology companies should face more government scrutiny, there has been little consensus on how it should be done. Congress passed legislation earlier this year that would force Chinese-owned social media company TikTok to sell or face a ban, but that law only targets one company.

The bill's prospects in the House are so far unclear. But if it passes the Senate with an overwhelming bipartisan vote—as it is expected to—advocates hope it will put pressure on House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., to bring it up before the November election or the end of the session in January.

"I think a strong vote in the Senate helps to move it quickly in the House," said Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, a Republican who wrote the bill with Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.

The child safety bill came together as Blumenthal and Blackburn have worked together and with advocacy groups for several years on compromise legislation that is designed to hold companies more responsible for what children see online while also ensuring that Congress does not go too far in regulating what individuals post.

US banks to begin reporting Russian assets for eventual forfeiture under new law

NEW YORK (AP)—The Treasury Department ordered the nation's banking industry to start disclosing its holdings of Russian assets on Tuesday, with the goal of eventually seizing those billions of dollars in assets and selling them to aid the devastated Ukrainian economy.

The disclosure is required under a new law passed by Congress earlier this year known as the REPO Act, which gives the U.S. government the authority to seize Russian state assets held by U.S. banks, with the goal of eventually selling them and giving those funds to Ukraine. While the vast bulk of Russian assets are held in Europe, it is estimated that the U.S. banking system holds as much as $6 billion in Russian assets in trust.

Banks will need to report Russian assets on their books no later than Aug. 2 to the Office of Foreign Assets Control. If a bank discovers any new Russian assets on their books after the deadline, those assets need to be reported within 10 days, the Treasury Department said.

Russia's war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022, has killed tens of thousands but has also caused significant devastation to Ukraine's economy and infrastructure. The World Bank estimated in February that Ukraine will need $486 billion for recovery and reconstruction, a figure that has only risen as the war has continued.

The U.S., Canada, France, Germany Italy, the U.K. and Japan—commonly known as the G7—froze roughly $300 billion worth of Russian assets at the start of the war. These assets included hard currency, as well as gold and investments in publicly and privately-held companies. But there has been little conversation until this year about what to do with those frozen assets, until the idea of forfeiture and liquidation was included in the REPO Act.

GRMC to host 9th anniversary health fair

To celebrate the hospital's 9th anniversary, Guam Regional Medical City is hosting a health fair on Saturday, July 27, from 10am to 3pm at the Micronesia Mall, center court.

GRMC specialty clinics participating in the health fair include Cancer Care—Hematology-Oncology & Radiation Oncology, Cardiology, General Surgery, Infectious Disease, Neurology, Orthopedics, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Sports Medicine, Urology, Wound Care/Hyperbaric, One-Stop Center-Laboratory/Radiology, Patient Education, and Rehabilitation Services.

Joining GRMC are community vendors including GI Digital, Guam Cancer Care, MD Wholesale, MedPharm, and Philippine Airlines.

The event is open to the public and will feature demonstrations, games, giveaways, and prizes, including a grand prize: a round-trip Economy class ticket from Guam to Manila on Philippine Airlines, courtesy of Goodwind Travel.

Attendees at the health fair can receive free blood pressure and BMI checks, as well as glucose testing upon registration. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board
Board Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Governor's Conference Room • Capitol Hill, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 08/08/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 07/11/24 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments *(not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14923 – American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market** proposes to amend its previous approved *Condition al Use Permit* 2020-3847 to include a new use of Flower/Floral Shop on the ground floor of its existing building and to construct a 2nd floor extension measuring **84' 6" (L) x 40' 6" (W) x 24' (H)** for its *"Single-Family Dwelling"* use. The site is located on **Lot 002 G 16** in the village of **Kagman.** This area is zoned as **Village Residential.**

2. **Conditional Use Application #2024-1924 - SPP LLC dba RozFx** proposes to utilize a portion within an existing one-story building with floor area measuring **22' 0" (L) x 21' 6" (W)** for its "Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing" Use. The site is located on **Lot 039 L 50 & 039 L 51** in the village of **Obyan.** This area is zoned as **Rural**.

C. Old Business

1. Parking regulations in Garapan Core (GC), Garapan East (GE), Village Commercial (VC), and other zoning districts

D. New Business

1. None

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates
   a. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulation
   b. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Conditional Use Permit
#2020-14923
American Xiong's Corporation
dba Angel Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market** proposes to amend its previous approved *Conditional Use Permit 2020-3847* to include a new use of Flower/Floral Shop on the ground floor of its existing building & to construct a 2nd floor extension measuring **84' 6" (L) x 40' 6" (W) x 24' (H)** for its *"Single-Family Dwelling"* use. The site is located on **Lot 002 G 16** in the village of **Kagman.** This area is zoned as **Village Residential.**

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **August 8, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Governor's Conference Room, Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 3pm, August 6, 2024.** Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Conditional Use
Application #2024-1924
SPP LLC dba RozFx

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **SPP LLC dba RozFx** proposes to utilize a portion within an existing one-story building with floor area measuring **22' 0" (L) x 21' 6" (W)** for its "Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing" Use. The site is located on **Lot 039 L 50 & 039 L 51** in the village of **Obyan.** This area is zoned as **Rural.**

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/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Nation

AT FIRST RALLY SINCE BIDEN'S EXIT FROM 2024 RACE

Trump expected to turn his full focus on Harris

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Donald Trump is holding his first public campaign rally since President Joe Biden dropped out of a 2024 matchup that both major parties had spent months preparing for, leaving the former president to direct his ire toward his likely new opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump is expected to turn his full focus on Harris as he stops Wednesday in North Carolina, a swing state that Trump has carried in the past, but Democrats have seen as pivotal. The former president's trip to the state shows he's still concerned about keeping it in his column this November, even as his team reaches for wins in traditionally Democratic-leaning states like Minnesota, where Trump is set to visit Saturday.

With Biden's abrupt departure from the presidential race and Harris edging closer and closer to officially being the Democrats' general election pick, Trump has ramped up his criticism of the vice president, whom he's characterized as "the same as Biden but much more radical."

He has blamed her for what he portrays as the Biden administration's failures, particularly on security along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump has also hedged on plans for an expected debate with Harris, first saying that he wanted Fox News, not ABC, to host the matchup he had originally scheduled for September with Biden. On Tuesday, Trump appeared to tweak that message again, saying on a call with reporters that he'd like to debate Harris "more than once" but not committing to appearing at the debate currently on the books and saying he'd only agreed to debate Biden twice, not Harris.

Quietly, Republicans have spoken about how subbing Harris in for Biden nullifies a portion of their party's argument in favor of Trump's vitality and vigor.

At 81, Biden had been the oldest nominee heading into a general election. Now, the 78-year-old Trump occupies that slot. Harris, 59, has launched a campaign that at least in some corners appears to be stoking interest among the younger voters who could be key in deciding an anticipated close general election.

North Carolina is a state Trump carried in both his previous campaigns but by less than 1.5 percentage points over Biden in 2020, the closest margin of any state Trump won. Trump stumped heavily in North Carolina even as the COVID-19 pandemic wore on, while Biden largely kept off the physical campaign trail and did not personally visit the state in the last 16 days of the election.

Mecklenburg County, home to Charlotte—the state's biggest city—was also the scene of Trump's narrowest margin of victory in North Carolina's GOP primary, edging out Nikki Haley by fewer than 8 percentage points.

This year, Trump had planned to hold his first rally since the start of his hush money trial in Fayetteville, but that event was called off due to inclement weather. Trump called in from his private plane instead.

Democrats also have been working to win North Carolina, where the party's most recent presidential win was Barack Obama's 2008 victory, despite recent GOP dominance.

Biden held a campaign event in Raleigh the day after his disastrous June debate with Trump. While he was much more forceful in that appearance than he was on the debate stage, it did not help much to quell the growing concern from members of his party about his ability to win the White House again.

Dems hope Harris' bluntness on abortion will translate to '24 wins in Congress, White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden might not often use the word "abortion" when he talks about the overturning of Roe v. Wade, but Vice President Kamala Harris sure does. She's also toured a Planned Parenthood clinic where the procedure is performed, and routinely links the fall of Roe to the larger issue of rising maternal mortality nationwide.

Now that Harris is running for president in place of Biden, Democrats and advocates for reproductive rights are hoping that her bluntness on abortion—coupled with the administration's policies—will help sway voters to deliver them not just the White House but key congressional seats as well.

"The president on the record was fabulous and the campaign was turning out multiple repro-focused ads a week, and had an army of surrogates," said Mini Timmaraju, president of Reproductive Freedom for All. "But, you know, nothing is more compelling than the top of the ticket being the most compelling on the issue, and that's what we have now."

In her first official rally as a candidate on Tuesday, Harris touched on the issue of abortion briefly. But she's expected to make it a major feature of the campaign going forward, as she works to draw a stark contrast between herself and Republican Donald Trump.

She's eager to portray herself as a direct and consistent advocate with a history of fighting for reproductive health issues, especially Black maternal health.

"We who believe in reproductive freedom will stop Donald Trump's extreme abortion bans, because we trust women to make decisions about their own bodies and not have their government tell them what to do," she said to loud cheers at a Wisconsin rally.

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FBI chief to face questions over Trump assassination attempt

WASHINGTON (AP)—FBI Director Christopher Wray is set to testify Wednesday about the bureau's investigation into the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, with lawmakers at a congressional hearing likely to press him for fresh details about the gunman's motive and background.

The hearing before the House Judiciary Committee will represent Wray's most detailed comments to date about a shooting that has again thrust the FBI into the political maelstrom as agents continue to investigate the 20-year-old gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, and the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981.

The hearing had been scheduled well before the June 13 shooting as part of the committee's routine oversight of the FBI and Justice Department, and though lawmakers may touch on a broad array of topics, questions about the shooting are expected to dominate the session.

Despite being appointed by Trump, Wray typically faces antagonistic questions from the Republican-led panel, a reflection of lingering discontent over the FBI's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the 2016 campaign. Though the FBI has avoided the same level of scrutiny directed at the Secret Service over security lapses that preceded the shooting, culminating Tuesday in the resignation of Director Kimberly Cheatle, Wray is likely to be questioned by lawmakers skeptical of the bureau's assessment that Crooks left behind no obvious ideological motive that could explain his actions.

The FBI has said that it is investigating the Butler, Pennsylvania, shooting, which killed one rallygoer and seriously injured two others, as an act of domestic terrorism and an attempted assassination.

Wray and other senior officials privately briefed members of Congress last week, telling them that Crooks had photos on his phone of Trump and President Joe Biden and other officials, and had also looked up the dates for the Democratic National Convention as well as Trump's appearances. A law enforcement official told The Associated Press last week that Crooks had also flown a drove above the rally site before the event in an apparent effort to scope out the scene in advance.

Life & Style

Judge sets deadline in bail bid for man charged in Tupac killing

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Sparks flew in court Tuesday as a Nevada judge rebuked a defense attorney and an ailing former Los Angeles-area gang leader lashed out against prosecutors during his renewed effort to be freed from jail to house arrest ahead of his trial in the 1996 killing of hip-hop legend Tupac Shakur.

Clark County District Court Judge Carli Kierny, who last month rejected Duane "Keffe D" Davis' bid to have a hip-hop music figure put up $112,500 to obtain Davis' $750,000 bail bond, issued a terse written order hours later giving Davis' lawyer, Carl Arnold, one week to provide more documentation about the source of the money.

The judge said she wanted "to lay to rest the court's concern" that music executive Cash "Wack 100" Jones was "acting as a front or middleman for some other entity or person."

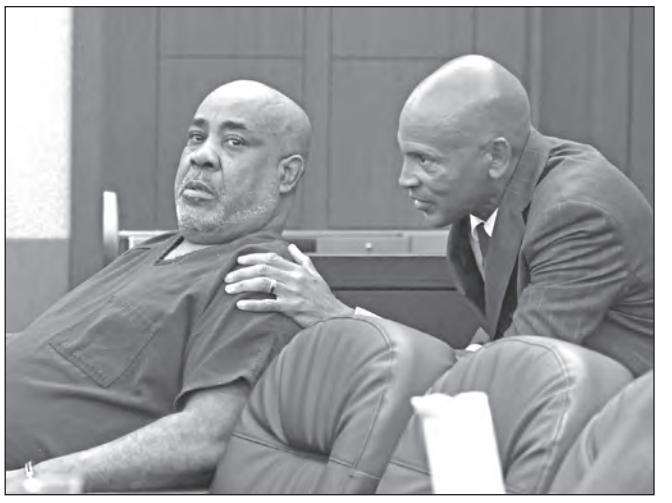
In court, Kierny accused Arnold of shaping media attention about the case involving one of hip-hop music's most enduring mysteries.

"It seems like your plan, your end goal here, is to make some kind of show for the press of this trial," Kierny said.

"That's not my end goal here, your honor," Arnold responded. "My end goal is to win the trial. If they want to follow me with cameras, they can do that."

Arnold was recently featured in a British tabloid report that said he was fielding offers for a film crew to follow him working on Davis' behalf. The article quoted Arnold calling Shakur's death a "legacy" legal case and invoking the memory of Johnnie Cochran, a defense attorney for O.J. Simpson during his 1995 trial in Los Angeles. Cochran, who died in 2005, was famously credited with showing jurors a glove and saying, "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit."

Davis has been held in a Las Vegas jail since his arrest last September. He stood in shackles and complained about police and prosecutors reviewing material compiled by a former Los Angeles police detective, Greg Kading, for a 2011 book about the killings of Shakur in Las Vegas and rival rap icon Christopher Wallace six months later in Los Angeles. Wallace was known as The Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls.



AP

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, left, who is accused of orchestrating the 1996 slaying of hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur, listens to his attorney Carl Arnold during a hearing to reconsider his bond at the Regional Justice Center, on Tuesday, July. 23, 2024, in Las Vegas.

"Them boxes should not be allowed," Davis said of records now being examined by police and prosecutors for possible evidence ahead of his trial, scheduled for Nov. 4.

"Mr. Greg Kading had those boxes at his house for 15 years in his attic doing all kind of TV interviews," Davis said. "He broke a proper agreement, and he broke the law, all kinds of stuff."

Davis also accused the prosecutors, Marc DiGiacomo and Binu Palal, of "trashing my family in this."

"They not only ugly on the outside but they ugly on the inside too," Davis said. "These two dudes right here."

DiGiacomo and Palal did not respond later to requests for comment.

Davis said in his own 2019 tell-all memoir—on leading a street gang in his hometown of Compton, California — that he was promised immunity from prosecution when he told authorities in Los Angeles what he knew about the shootings of Shakur and Wallace.

Dan Aykroyd revisits the Blues Brothers' remarkable legacy in new Audible Original

NEW YORK (AP)—The shades are on, the skinny tie is knotted and the fedora is perched just so—Dan Aykroyd is ready to look back.

The actor-comedian is revving up the Bluesmobile to reminisce about the years he teamed up with John Belushi as the Blues Brothers, taking Hollywood and the Billboard charts by storm.

Aykroyd writes and narrates the Audible Original "Blues Brothers: The Arc of Gratitude," which starts with him meeting Belushi one freezing night in Toronto in 1973 and takes us to today, with gigs still lining up. The documentary drops Thursday.

"It's cool to keep doing it after 40-some years," Aykroyd says from his summer home in Canada. "It's because it's based on the honesty of African American culture and the music and two white guys who just loved it so much that we had to emulate it and do it in this way."

The documentary traces their appearances on "SNL" and their breakthrough album "Briefcase Full of Blues" to the 1980 movie and its hit soundtrack, the death of Belushi and Aykroyd's commitment to carry on the tradition with a new partner—Belushi's brother, Jim—with the creation of House of Blues nightclubs and the "Blues Brothers 2000" movie sequel.

AP

Dan Aykroyd attends the world premiere of "Get On Up" in New York on July 21, 2014.

The two-hour lookback includes interviews with Jim Belushi, band leader Paul Shaffer, singer Curtis Salgado, director John Landis, drummer Steve Jordan, widow Judy Belushi Pisano, saxophonist Lou Marini and more, as well as a previously unheard interview with John Belushi himself.

"I provided the structural skeleton to a lot of really strong organic material there," says Aykroyd. "I think it really brought back the time vividly."

Listeners will learn that "SNL" creator and producer Lorne Michaels wasn't a fan of the fictional brothers' act and that their rise was something of a disruption for record labels and movie studios. Key moments came when Willie Nelson and then Steve Martin invited them as opening acts.

The concept was admittedly a little odd: Two white comedians fronting a first-rate blues band with the express purpose of celebrating a musical form that had grown dusty.

Longtime relationship may be a lost cause

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "Ben" for 13 years, but I have been to his parents' home only twice. I really love him. We never go anywhere or do anything together. He has never given me a gift for any occasion or "just because." Material things don't matter to me, but if he thought to get me something, it would make me feel he cares.

Ben is always gone, and I'm always alone. He is very selfish. How can I help him understand that I have feelings and I matter as much as he does?

MISSING SOMETHING IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR MISSING: People demonstrate their feelings for each other in different ways. From what you have written, it appears the man you have been with for 13 years spends the exact amount of time with you that he wishes, with little to no regard for your needs.

You could talk at Ben until the cows come home, but he won't get the message. For your sake, invest no more time in this man. Concentrate on finding a partner who is willing to give you what you need. If you do, you'll have a happier life than the one you are living now.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A friend's daughter moved in with me to attend college so she would not have to commute. At the time, I was out of state with an ill family member. While I was away, my bathroom was repainted without my permission. Had I been asked, I would have said NO.

I, and many others, think this was totally inappropriate. It's still unsettling to me, even though it happened a couple of years ago. How do I put this behind me?

COLOR-CORRECTED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR COLOR-CORRECTED: I understand why you are still seeing red. You were generous, and your hospitality was violated. What the girl did was nervy. (I hope you made her restore it to the way it was, but I suspect you didn't do that.)

A way to put this behind you would be to consider it a LESSON and, in the future, before allowing anyone to stay in your home, establish a set of ground rules that includes "no altering the premises in your absence."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have an unusual situation and don't know what to do. I've been married for 28 years. My husband likes to urinate outside. We have a patio just outside our kitchen window, and I can't stand the smell anymore.

Our neighbors have complained to him and have asked me to make him stop. I have asked him nicely, I have begged, I have gotten angry and I have cried. Nothing makes him stop. Last year, he was arrested for urinating in a public park. Please help me figure this out.

AT THE END OF MY ROPE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR 'END': For some men, their home is their castle, and their yard is their kingdom. Your husband seems to like marking his turf —literally. (Dogs do this as well.) Because you can't make him see reason, it may be time for your neighbors to report him to the authorities for exposing himself in public.

And, between you and me, that he would urinate in a public park may indicate that he's slipping mentally, which should be mentioned to his doctor.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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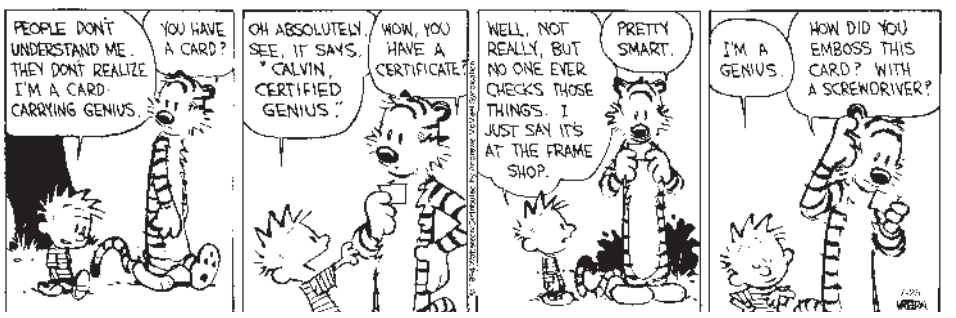
Pastimes

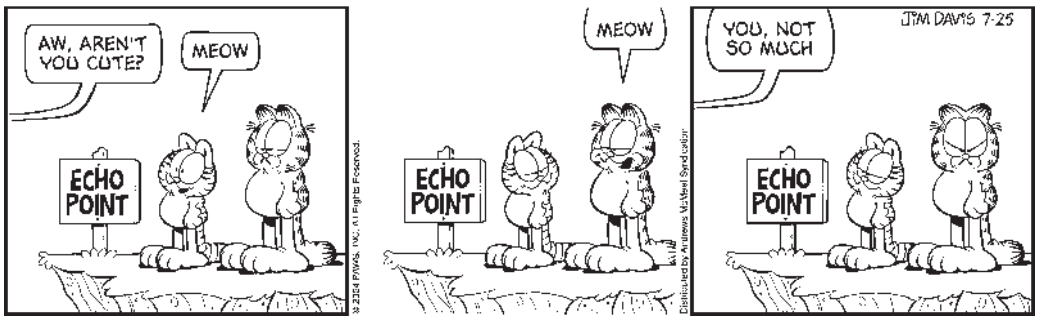
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND ME. THEY DON'T REALIZE I'M A CARD-CARRYING GENIUS.
YOU HAVE A CARD?
OH ABSOLUTELY. SEE, IT SAYS, "CALVIN, CERTIFIED GENIUS."
WOW, YOU HAVE A CERTIFICATE.
WELL, NOT REALLY, BUT NO ONE EVER CHECKS THOSE THINGS. I JUST SAY IT'S AT THE FRAME SHOP.
PRETTY SMART.
I'M A GENIUS.
HOW DID YOU EMBOSS THIS CARD? WITH A SCREWDRIVER?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



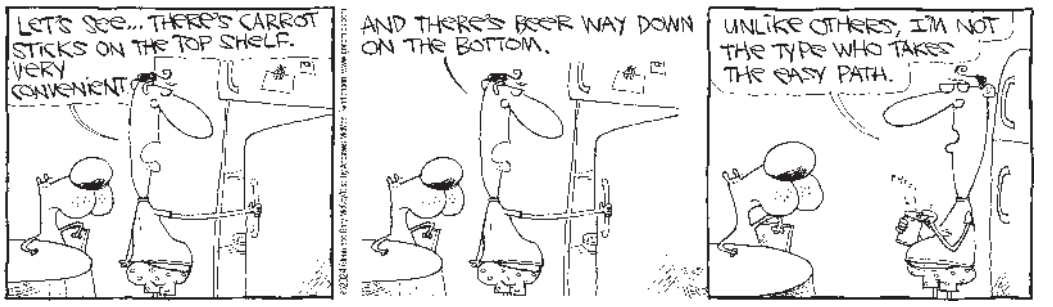
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY OKAY.
MAYBE WE SHOULD FORM A TRUCE.
7-25
THAT'S NOT HOW TRUCES WORK! YOU PUT A SNAKE IN MY BED AND I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO YOU!
HA HA HA! TELL ME THE PART WHERE SHE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO YOU AGAIN!
SO SHE LOOKS ALL INNOCENT-LIKE..

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LET'S SEE... THERE'S CARROT STICKS ON THE TOP SHELF. VERY CONVENIENT.
AND THERE'S BEER WAY DOWN ON THE BOTTOM.
UNLIKE OTHERS, I'M NOT THE TYPE WHO TAKES THE EASY PATH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Expansive
5 Taxi
8 Play parts
12 Regrettably
13 "Yoo- —!"
14 The Mets' old home
15 Zilch
16 "Evil Woman" gp.
17 Steerer's place
18 Do a slow burn
20 Gourmet mushrooms
22 Navy address
23 Wainscot wood
24 "Of — and Men"
27 Arriving
32 "Kinda" suffix
33 Reaction to an air show
34 Sass
35 Deep fissure
38 Mimicking bird
39 Aachen article
40 Id counterpart
42 Square one
45 Skyrocketed
49 "Phooey!"
50 U.K. recording label
52 "Unh-unh"
53 Fed. workplace monitor
54 Sturgeon product
55 Idyllic place
56 Church service
57 Ruin the veneer
58 Ruby and Sandra

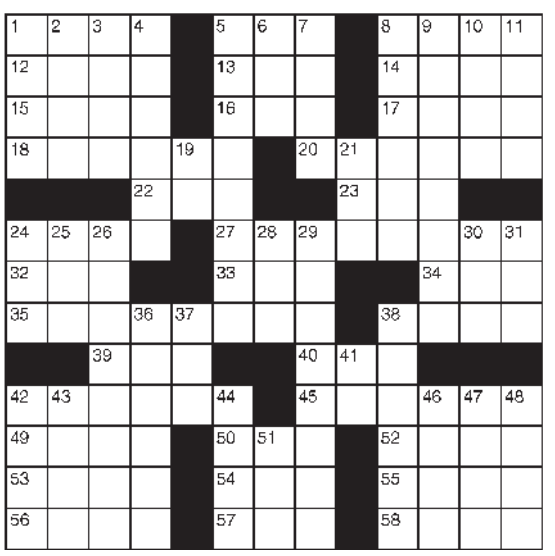
DOWN

1 Moving fleet
2 African lily
3 Logical
4 Dangerous fly
5 Popular cereal
6 ISP giant
7 Prosperous time
8 Hindu retreat
9 In a sassy manner
10 Relate
11 — Club
19 "Greetings!"
21 Odometer start
24 Karaoke prop, for short
25 Leb. neighbor
26 Fast felines
28 Refusals
29 More rinky-dink
30 Diarist Anais
31 Dean's list stat
36 Panoramas
37 Chemical suffix
38 Complained
41 "Leave now!"
42 Actor Leslie — Jr.
43 Celestial bear
44 School session
46 Took the bus
47 Slender weapon
48 Cozy rooms
51 Extinct bird

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	T	O		A	R	K		A	B	C	S
P	L	A	N		M	O	E		S	E	A	T
B	A	H	S	I	O	O	L		S	A	H	A
S	W	A	P	S			P	L	F	N	T	Y
			E	A	S	T		E	T	S		
C	N	B	C		T	I	D	F		O	R	R
P	I	F		D	F	I	I	S		U	K	F
A	X	L		E	N	D	S		S	P	O	T
		S	F	F		F	C	R	U			
P	E	T	S	P	A			O	L	I	V	E
E	D	I	T		B	L	A	C	K	S	E	A
A	N	N	E		B	O	I		E	L	E	C
R	A	G	E		Y	A	M		D	A	S	H

Yesterday's answer 7-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Lafferty, 39; D.B. Woodside, 55; Matt LeBlanc, 57; Illeana Douglas, 59.

Happy Birthday: Act, and initiate the changes you've contemplated. The groups you associate with will help alleviate boredom and give you plenty to think about this year. An energetic approach to life and love will lead to happiness and contentment. Please don't wait until it's too late to take advantage of an opportunity. Trust and believe in your ability to do what's best for you. Your numbers are 9, 13, 24, 29, 36, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Dedicate more time to the people, events and pastimes that make you happy. Express yourself physically using affection, kindness and consideration to draw attention and gain respect. Pay attention to financial matters, and take on only what you can afford or produce as promised. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for ulterior motives when dealing with others. Someone will withhold information critical to how a personal, medical or financial situation will unfold. Listen carefully and advocate on your behalf. Take control, eliminate the middleman or do your due diligence to ensure you get your desired outcome. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get motivated and moving. Wake up and rejuvenate. Stop procrastinating and get your house in order. Speak up, enlist those you need to get things done and continue until you are happy with the results. Walk away from temptation. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put more thought and ingenuity into whatever job or responsibility you encounter. How you present yourself and your attitude will determine who helps and how much you achieve. Forward-thinking will help you gain ground and let go of the past. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Proceed and make your voice heard. Enlist in something that moves you and be the one to make a difference. Unite with like-minded people and get the lowdown regarding what's possible and within reason. Let love flourish and take responsibility for your life and achieving your goals. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Simplify your life by sticking to facts. Being helpful will aid you in gaining favors and meeting influential individuals who can point you in an exciting direction. Don't sit back waiting for things to come to you; engage in life, and you'll find happiness and prosperity. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be open to suggestions and willing to put some muscle behind your subsequent actions. Talk is cheap if you don't follow through. Get involved in something that moves you, and you'll connect with people you enjoy being around. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Ask questions and let your intuition lead the way. Your instincts will guide you to recognize your best option. Don't trust anyone using bravado and hype to lure others into something dubious. If you want concrete results, do it yourself and you'll have no regrets. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Putter around the house, learn something new or invest more time in self-improvement to raise your awareness and encourage confidence. Refuse to let anyone's negativity lower your self-esteem. If a change is what you need, make it happen. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Channel your emotions into something creative or bestow your affection toward people you love to ward off frustration. Think before you act and change what isn't running smoothly. Don't let indecisiveness lead to vulnerability or unnecessary trouble. Choose peace over discord. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set goals and push forward until you get satisfactory results. Adapt your surroundings to meet the demands you put on yourself, and it will override any unexpected deterrent you encounter. A partnership will pay off financially and emotionally, giving you the wiggle room to succeed. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to let uncertainty prevail. Communicate with confidence, or someone will take advantage of you. Know what you want and ask direct questions. Do your research and prepare to conduct yourself with authority, and you'll get the desired results. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, impressionable and influential. You are emotional and charming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		5		4	
	4		3			1		
9	8					7		
	9		5				1	
	2	3	4		7			
7		8						
1	3	9		2	4		5	
	5	2		9				
4	7					3		9

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	3	7	4	5	2	6	9	8
5	8	4	3	6	9	2	1	7
9	2	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
6	1	2	9	8	5	7	4	3
3	9	5	7	2	4	1	8	6
7	4	8	6	1	3	9	2	5
8	6	3	2	9	7	4	5	1
4	7	9	5	3	1	8	6	2
2	5	1	8	4	6	3	7	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LANGUAGE EVOLUTION **Solution: 9 letters**

P	A	R	A	G	R	A	P	H	D	E	N	G	I	S
H	D	S	E	D	N	E	G	E	L	P	N	E	W	E
R	J	L	C	A	I	A	S	T	O	R	Y	R	O	R
A	E	S	A	H	D	A	(I)	R	G	O	I	A	R	U
S	C	D	Y	T	O	A	L	(D)	O	T	V	L	D	T
E	T	M	N	L	I	O	D	E	(E)	O	O	C	S	C
E	I	E	T	U	L	G	L	V	C	(A)	I	E	E	I
C	V	T	P	R	O	A	I	A	E	T	C	D	N	P
N	E	A	I	A	T	S	B	D	N	R	E	R	T	O
U	Y	P	R	I	A	U	V	L	E	O	B	A	E	E
O	A	H	C	U	L	N	O	V	E	L	I	W	N	T
N	S	O	S	A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T	G	C	R
O	S	R	R	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	P	X	E	Y
R	E	Y	G	O	L	O	I	B	L	E	T	T	E	R
P	S	Y	C	H	O	L	O	G	Y	R	O	E	H	T

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Adjective, Adverb, Alphabet, Biology, Declare, Dialect, Digital, Draw, Essay, Expression, Idea, Legend, Letter, Logo, Metaphor, Novel, Paragraph, Persuasive, Phrase, Pictures, Poetry, Pronounce, Proto, Psychology, Read, Regional, School, Script, Sentence, Signed, Sound, Story, Syllable, Theory, Vocabulary, Voice, Word, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Overnight

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

76ers welcome George, welcome back Maxey with all parties in desperate chase for title

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Tyrese Maxey was asked to wait. Be patient, and the millions will come.

Maybe an NBA championship, too.

Maxey had some doubts a year ago when the Philadelphia 76ers asked their guard—who was not yet an All-Star, who had not yet dropped 50 points in a game three times—to hold off on signing a contract extension until this summer.

The 76ers' reasoning was solid: Maxey would open the offseason with a salary cap hold of $13 million dollars, a low figure by NBA standards which allowed the Sixers to enter free agency with roughly $65 million to splurge on building out the roster, notably adding a potential superstar to join him and 2023 NBA MVP and Olympian Joel Embiid.

Enter, Paul George.

With money to burn, the 76ers enticed George to leave the Los Angeles Clippers and sign a four-year, $212 million contract. The 76ers and team president Daryl Morey didn't forget about Maxey, either. The NBA's Most Improved Player, Maxey was rewarded for his wait with a five-year, $204 million extension. The 76ers committed more than $400 million in salary to two players they believe position them as the top contender to dethrone the NBA champion Boston Celtics.

The 76ers gave Maxey his due for the biggest assist of his career.

"By being patient, he allowed us to put this offseason together, to really put us in position to be one of the very few legitimate contenders in the league this year," Morey said.

The 76ers have believed they were legitimate contenders for years, only for a flurry of second-fiddles to pass through town without much to show beyond postseason busts for their time here. Philly fans can reel off the list of lemons with ease, from Ben Simmons to Tobias Harris; from Jimmy Butler to Al Horford; from Markelle Fultz to James Harden.

The 34-year-old George and Maxey both held their first formal press conferences on Tuesday at the 76ers' New Jersey complex, complete with ownership, the front office and even the All-Star duo, insisting this time — for real now! — this season could be as good as it gets in Philly.

AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Paul George center, owner Josh Harris, left, and president Daryl Morey pose for a photo at the NBA basketball team's practice facility, Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in Camden, N.J.

"I think we are set up," team owner Josh Harris said. "It's hard not to be excited about this team. I've been here for the last 10 years, 12 years, and this is among, if not the best team, we've had since I've been here."

Maxey took a leap of faith the money would still be there for him a year later and the 21st overall pick in the 2020 draft has found a home in Philadelphia.

"I understood what the end goal was," Maxey said. "Sometimes you have to realize that."

George, who has averaged 20.8 points over a 14-year career, wanted to move on from the Clippers and declined a player option in his contract for $48.8 million in 2024-25 that ended a five-year stretch with the team in which he averaged at least 21.5 points each season.

George said "Philly was No. 1″ for his top choice in free agency because the 76ers "kind of fit my game and fit where I was at in my career."

Perhaps.

The 76ers, though, rose to the top spot more because they offered about $60 million more than the Clippers' offer, one George called "disrespectful."

George said earlier this month on his podcast that he "never wanted to leave LA" and would have signed with the Clippers had they offered the three-year, $150-million extension they gave Kawhi Leonard. George also wanted a no-trade clause. George said the Clippers wouldn't give him a four-year, $212-million contract, or any deal without the promise of a no-trade clause.

He said Tuesday there was no "ill will" toward the Clippers. He thanked the organization for allowing him to play in his home city and for a "legitimate shot to chase a championship every season."

George essentially traded a Big Three with Leonard and Harden in Los Angeles for a chance to join Maxey and Embiid and form a formidable trio in Philly.

"Joel has secretly been one of my closest All-Star Game friends," George said. "It kind of felt inevitable that at some point, we would link up and be teammates."

George was wooed at his California home by a contingent that included Harris, Morey, coach Nick Nurse and even 76ers legend and Hall of Famer Julius Erving. Weather delays forced a late arrival at George's home.

"The good Doctor cracked open a vodka," Harris said. "It was a long journey."

One the 76ers hope ends with a championship.

It's been a rough road toward one for a franchise that hasn't advanced out of the second round of the playoffs since 2001 and hasn't won it all since Erving led them to the NBA title in 1983.

Even George—who has yet to win a title in previous stops with Indiana, Oklahoma City and the Clippers -- knew what the immediate goal was in Philly.

"Obviously, winning," George said, before a beat, "and to get past the second round."

Embiid, George and Maxey will have some help. Morey used the available cap room and roster space to bring back Kyle Lowry and Kelly Oubre Jr, and bring aboard Andre Drummond, Caleb Martin, KJ Martin, and 2024 draft picks Jared McCain and Adem Bona.

"Most of my ideas are going in in pencil," Nurse said. "I've got some thoughts on things. But I really do think we'll experiment and try a bunch of different things."

Hornets waive veteran guard Reggie Jackson less than a month after trade with Denver

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets have waived guard Reggie Jackson, less than a month after acquiring him and three future second-round draft picks in a deal with the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets traded Jackson with one year left on his $10.2 million contract because they were up against the salary cap. The Hornets were able to take on Jackson's contract because they had salary cap room.

The 34-year-old Jackson played in all 82 games last season and averaged 10.2 points and 3.8 assists while shooting 36% from 3-point range. Jackson entered the NBA in 2011 with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

LeBron scores final 11 points for US in 92-88 win over Germany as pre-Olympic tour ends

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

On Friday, LeBron James will carry the U.S. flag. But first, he carried the U.S. men's basketball team.

Again.

James scored the final 11 points for the Americans down the stretch, and the four-time reigning Olympic gold medalists held off World Cup champion Germany 92-88 in London on Monday night in their final tune-up before the Paris Games start later this week.

Announced earlier in the day as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday night's opening ceremony down the River Seine—the female flagbearer will be revealed Tuesday—James came through time and time again down the stretch, just as he did over the weekend when his layup with 8 seconds left gave the U.S. a 101-100 win over upstart South Sudan.

James had 20 points for the U.S., while Joel Embiid scored 15, Stephen Curry had 13 and Anthony Edwards finished with 11.

"It was a good test for us. And I'm glad we were able to once again, you know, keep our composure, persevere like we did the other day versus South Sudan," James said. "It was a good win for us."

Franz Wagner led Germany with 18 points. Andreas Obst—the hero of last year's German win over the U.S. in the World Cup semifinals — had 14, while Dennis Schroder had a 13-point, 10-assist night. Daniel Theis added 13 for Germany and Moritz Wagner scored 12.

The Americans finished their exhibition slate 5-0, but there was only one game that was a true cakewalk. That was against Serbia, the team that'll face the U.S. on Sunday in the first Olympic game this summer for both teams.

Canada gave the U.S. issues at times, Australia came from way back to make things interesting at the end, South Sudan nearly pulled off an upset as a 43.5-point underdog and the Germans had the lead over the U.S. with 4 minutes left on Monday.

Then it was James' time. He outscored Germany 11-6 by himself in the final 3:57.

And now, Paris awaits. The games start for real this weekend.

"We've had every experience," Curry said. "Now it's obviously a matter of showing up when the lights are bright next week. I think we're ready. I think we're prepared. Now we have to perform."

3-point troubles

For the second consecutive game, the U.S. got outscored by 21 points from 3-point range. And it nearly burned the Americans again.

Germany was 13 for 45 from beyond the arc, the U.S. was 6 for 17, and that's a 39-18 difference in points from deep.

South Sudan outscored the U.S. 42-21 from deep on Saturday.

Also not helping the U.S. cause on Monday: it had 14 turnovers to Germany's seven.

"I don't think we've played our best offensive game yet," Curry said.

Looking back

Theis had 26 points, while Schroder and Obst had 24 apiece in Germany's 113-111 win over the U.S. in the World Cup at Manila a year ago.

That trio was fantastic again Monday, combining for 40 points.

It should be noted that the loss to Germany last year was about when some players—James, for example—started seriously thinking about joining the U.S. program for this run to the Paris Games.

No Durant

Kevin Durant got some pregame shots up again, just as he did Saturday in London. And, again, that was the extent of his game-night action.

The three-time gold medalist did not play while he continues to recover from the calf strain he suffered a few days before the U.S. convened for training camp in Las Vegas.

Durant missed all five pre-Olympic games exhibitions, though he did practice this past weekend. He has not appeared in a real game since late April, when Phoenix was swept in a first-round NBA playoff series by Minnesota.

Guardians end 3-game slide with win over Tigers

CLEVELAND (AP)—José Ramírez homered for the first time in July and drove in two runs as the Cleveland Guardians ended their three-game losing streak with a 5-4 win over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

Ramírez connected in the fifth inning off Joey Wentz (0-2) to help the AL Central-leading Guardians get just their third win in 10 games. Ramírez added an RBI single in the sixth.

Steven Kwan and rookie Jhonkensy Noel also hit homers for Cleveland, which has been in an offensive rut for weeks. The Guardians came in having scored two or fewer runs in six of their past eight games.

Wenceel Perez hit a two-run homer for the Tigers.

AP

Cleveland Guardians' José Ramírez celebrates hitting a solo home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in Cleveland.

CARDINALS 2, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Rookie Paul Skenes lost for the first time in 12 career major league starts, giving up Alec Burleson's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning that lifted St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

Advertisement

Pitching for the first time since starting for the National League in last week's All-Star Game, the 22-year-old right-hander pitched past the seventh inning for the first time in the major leagues.

Nolan Arenado put St. Louis ahead with a fifth-inning home run on a first-pitch curveball, and Nick Gonzalez tied the score with an RBI single in the eighth off JoJo Romero.

Skenes (6-1) threw 91 pitches through eight innings, and Pirates manager Derek Shelton allowed him to remain on the mound for the ninth.

PADRES 4, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Luis Arraez and Jurickson Profar homered on consecutive pitches in the fifth inning, and San Diego blanked Washington.

Randy Vásquez pitched six innings to earn his first victory since June 22 for San Diego, which has won three in a row.

Washington, which had won five of six, is 0-4 against the Padres this season. The Nationals were shut out for the 11th time.

Advertisement

Nationals starter DJ Herz (1-4), recalled from Triple-A Rochester earlier in the day, breezed through three innings, then escaped a bases-loaded jam in the fourth. He retired the first two batters in the fifth before facing the top of the lineup for the third time.

MARLINS 6, ORIOLES 3

MIAMI (AP)—Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Nick Gordon each drove in two runs, Jesús Sánchez homered and Kyle Tyler and four relievers held Baltimore without a run after the third inning as Miami beat the Orioles.

Baltimore, which slipped into a tie with Cleveland for the best record in the American League at 60-40, was slowed after losing second baseman Jorge Mateo and starting pitcher Albert Suárez due to injuries in the third inning.

Mateo collided with shortstop Gunnar Henderson as they dove to catch a grounder off the bat of Jesús Sánchez behind the second base bag and left because of left elbow pain.

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Suárez's outing ended when Miami's next hitter, Otto López, hit a comebacker that deflected the pitcher's right foot and rolled near the Marlins' dugout on the third-base side for a single that loaded the bases.

RAYS 4, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Brandon Lowe hit a two-run home run and Tampa Bay won for the fourth time in five games by beating Toronto.

Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 17th home run and outfielder Daulton Varsho made an impressive leaping catch for the second game in a row, but Toronto lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Right-hander Shawn Armstrong opened for the Rays—who climbed back over .500 at 51-50—in place of righty Ryan Pepiot, who was hospitalized in New York City on Sunday because of a knee infection.

Armstrong exited after striking out four in two scoreless innings. Left-hander Tyler Alexander (3-3) followed and struck out four over three shutout innings.

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METS 3, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeff McNeil kept up his sudden power surge with a two-run homer that snapped a sixth-inning tie, and the New York Mets held off the New York Yankees in their Subway Series opener.

Jose Quintana (5-6) and five relievers combined on a five-hitter at Yankee Stadium as the Mets (52-48) matched their season high of four games over .500. They are 3-0 against their crosstown rivals, including a two-game sweep at Citi Field last month.

With closer Edwin Díaz unavailable, Jake Diekman worked a hitless ninth for his fourth save. After walking Juan Soto with one out, the veteran lefty froze Aaron Judge with a 96 mph fastball on the inside corner for a called third strike, then retired rookie Ben Rice on a grounder to end it.

The Mets had walked Judge his first four times up, once intentionally, but the Yankees couldn't capitalize.

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RANGERS 3, WHITE SOX 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Texas right-hander Jon Gray allowed one run pitching into the eighth inning and retired the last 15 batters he faced as the Rangers beat the Chicago White Sox.

After Andrew Vaughn's RBI single with two outs in the third inning, the White Sox didn't get another batter on base against Gray (5-4). The last was pinch-hitter Tommy Pham for the second out of the eighth, when shortstop Jonathan Ornelas made a backhanded stop and was falling away from first base when he made a incredible throw.

Gray struck out five and walked none while throwing 63 of his 80 pitches for strikes.

The White Sox (27-76) have lost nine games in a row and 15 of 18. They are only the 12th team in MLB history with 76 losses in their first 103 games, and the first since the 1979 Oakland Athletics.

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PHILLIES 3, TWINS 0

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Nick Castellanos hit a two-run double to cap a three-run ninth inning, and Philadelphia beat Minnesota.

After a scoreless duel between Phillies ace Zack Wheeler and Twins rookie Simeon Woods Richardson, Philadelphia took control in the ninth against Minnesota closer Jhoan Duran (5-5).

Making his first start since July 9, Wheeler threw seven dominant innings for Philadelphia, which has the best record in the majors (64-37). Wheeler, who skipped his last scheduled start before the All-Star break with a sore back, struck out seven, allowed three hits and walked two.

Woods Richardson allowed three hits and one walk and struck out five in six innings. The playoff-contending Twins have lost three of four since the All-Star break.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Jordan Montgomery allowed one run over five innings to win in his return from a layoff of nearly one month caused by a knee injury, and Arizona beat Kansas City.

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Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer and scored three runs.

Montgomery (7-5) allowed three hits, walked one and struck out two, throwing 39 of 67 pitches for strikes. The 31-year-old left-hander, signed by the NL champions to a $25 million, one-year contract in March, had been sidelined since June 27 by right knee inflammation. He won for the first time since June 21 at Philadelphia.

Bryce Jarvis pitched two shutout innings, and Joe Mantiply, Ryan Thompson and Kevin Ginkel finished as Arizona stopped the Royals' four-game winning streak. Kansas City had won eight of 10 coming in.

RED SOX 6, ROCKIES 0

DENVER (AP)—Tyler O'Neill homered twice, Cooper Criswell tossed seven shutout innings, and Boston beat Colorado to snap a four-game skid.

O'Neill hit a two-run shot in the first inning and then crushed an 89-mph sinker from Ty Blach (3-6) 465 feet to the concourse in left field in the third inning to give the Red Sox a 6-0 lead.

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He came to bat in the fourth with the bases loaded but reliever Anthony Molina struck him out with a 2-2 curveball to end the inning.

Criswell (4-4) struck out four, scattered five hits and threw a career-high 105 pitches. Colorado started the sixth with two singles but Criswell got Brendan Rodgers to hit into a double play and Brenton Doyle to ground out.

ANGELS 5, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—José Soriano allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings, Luis Rengifo delivered a key two-run single in his return from the injured list, and the Los Angeles Angels beat Seattle.

Los Angeles won for the sixth time in the past eight games thanks to another strong pitching performance from Soriano (6-7), who pitched more than seven innings and threw 100 pitches for the first time this season.

Pitching for the first time in 10 days and facing Seattle for his second straight start, Soriano allowed just three hits and struck out five. The only run Soriano allowed came after Jason Vosler doubled to lead off the fifth inning and scored on a double play.

Seattle lost for the seventh time in eight games and another lackluster effort offensively came on the day the Mariners placed Julio Rodríguez and J.P. Crawford on the 10-day injured list and designated for assignment first baseman Ty France.

BREWERS 1, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Brice Turang drove in the only run Milwaukee needed in their shutout of the Chicago Cubs.

Trevor Megill worked the ninth for his 20th save and made a winner of Elvis Peguero (6-3), the second of four Milwaukee relievers.

Jameson Taillon (7-5) worked the first 7 1/3 innings for Chicago, but left after giving up a pair of singles. Julian Merryweather, fresh off the injured list, came on to give up Turang's two-out grounder that put the Brewers ahead for good.

The Cubs loaded the bases in the eighth against Jared Koenig but came up empty after the left-hander got pinch-hitter David Bote to fly out.

ATHLETICS 8, ASTROS 2

OAKLAND, Calif (AP)—Lawrence Butler hit one of the Athletics' five homers, fell a single short of the cycle and made a tremendous throw from right field to cut down a runner at the plate as Oakland beat Houston.

Brent Rooker, Seth Brown, Zack Gelof and Shea Langeliers also connected to help the A's hand the AL West-leading Astros a second consecutive defeat.

Butler tripled and scored on Rooker's two-run drive in the first inning, homered in the third and doubled in a run in the sixth. The longball was his eighth in July, and the A's leadoff hitter leads the majors with 24 RBIs this month.

Needing a single to complete the A's first cycle since 2007, Butler drew a five-pitch walk against Rafael Montero, raising a smattering of boos from the crowd of 5,896 at the Oakland Coliseum.

DODGERS 5, GIANTS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had two hits and drove in three runs, rookie Landon Knack pitched five solid innings and the Los Angeles Dodgers extended their winning streak to five games by beating San Francisco.

Tyler Fitzgerald became the first Giants rookie to homer in five consecutive games with a solo shot in the second inning. Fitzgerald had three hits and drove in both runs.

Gavin Lux—named the NL Player of the Week on Monday—had a two-run double in the first inning. Lux is 7 for 16 with five RBIs since the All-Star break.

Ohtani ended the night of San Francisco starter Jordan Hicks (4-7) in the fourth inning with a double off the right-field fence in front of the Giants' bullpen to drive in Jason Heyward and Cavan Biggio, extending Los Angeles' lead to 4-1.

NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

File photo shows Blue Jays' Terrell Rabago in the batter's box during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Blue Jays beat Natives; soar above .500

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Blue Jays pummeled the Natives, 17-2, to get one game above .500 with a 5-4 record after their 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League game last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Natives were handed their eighth straight loss with no win in sight so far. They were easy prey for the Blue Jays as their bats came out to play that night with their ace Kevin Kapileo on the mound.

The only two runs registered for the Natives came in the third inning when leadoff batter Cam Towai and Tim Deleon Guerrero scored after an error and an RBI single by Chris Meyers. Other than that, Kapileo held down the Natives' offense to just seven hits.

For the Blue Jays, they were trouble from the start for the Natives as they scored five consecutive runs in the first inning with runs by James Salalila, Terrell Rabago, Frankie Lieto, Jess Mesa, and Shane Mallens.

The second inning was quiet as Natives pitcher J.J. Takawo allowed just one hit and no runs. However, the floodgates opened once again in the third when the Blue Jays brought home eight for a 13-0 lead.

The Natives got their two runs in the third then went radio silent as the Blue Jays scored two more in the fourth and in the fifth. The game ended early based on the run mercy ruling.

In the team standings, the Falcons lead with an 8-1 record; the Cardinals are next at 7-2; Bandits and Padres are at 6-2; Sandlots has a 6-3 record; Braves is at 5-3; Blue Jays is right above .500 at 5-4; Royals are at an even 4-4; Bears have a 4-5 record; D-9er's and White Sox are at 2-6; the Natives have yet to win at eight losses; and Blue Shark have lost all their games so far at nine losses.

Last Monday and last Tuesday's games were canceled due to rain. There was a scheduled game between the Blue Jays and Sandlot last night, but was also rescheduled again due to rain.

NMC Foundation golf tourney set for March 22-23

Members of the golfing community are asked to mark their calendars for Northern Marianas College Foundation's 20th Golf Open scheduled for March 22 and 23, 2025. Like the tournament held earlier this year, the two-day golf tournament will feature a medal-play format and will feature thousands of dollars in prizes.

"We are proud to celebrate 20 years of supporting higher education in the CNMI," NMC Foundation board chair Ben Babauta said. "Our annual golf tournament is a key fundraiser that enables us to invest in modern campus facilities and workforce development programs that benefit the entire community. We are grateful for the continued support of our generous sponsors and community partners, and we look forward to another successful tournament in 2025 as we work to expand access to quality education for all residents of the CNMI."

The NMC Foundation comprises committed community volunteers, primarily from the business sector, who are dedicated to improving higher education in the CNMI by encouraging private and public support for Northern Marianas College.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the college with its rebuilding efforts can donate cash or in-kind contributions by emailing foundation@marianas.edu or calling (670) 237-6833.

Registration for the 2025 NMC Golf Open will open soon. For more updates, follow Northern Marianas College on Facebook and Instagram (nmc.proa) or visit www.marianas.edu/. The Northern Marianas College Foundation will be hosting its 20th Golf Open on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23, 2025. While registration to compete in the golf open is coming soon, interested companies and organizations who would like to donate can email foundation@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

NMC

The Northern Marianas College Foundation will be hosting its 20th Golf Open on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23, 2025. While registration to compete in the Golf Open is coming soon, interested companies and organizations who would like to donate can email foundation@marianas.edu.

NMI

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even it up. But the NMI's defenses held and they notched their first win in the opening game of the tourney, even as an extra four minutes were added towards the end of the match.

Casarino also scored the lone goal in the previous LPK Cup 2024 last week that led to their 1-0 win over Philippines' Tuloy FC Women's Team.

This was not the first time the NMI team beat Mongolia. They last beat them in December, 4-3, during the Women's EAFF E-1 Football Championships Preliminary Competition in Zhuhai, China.

With their win in this tourney, NMI team captain Dianne Pablo said, "it feels good especially in front of the crowd. And I think it adds confidence to the girls." She said that playing at home feels "very nice" as they don't really have opportunities to do so. "It's to our advantage of course and it gives us a lot more confidence to play in front of everyone we know."

As this wasn't their first time to play against and beat Mongolia, Pablo said that heading into the match, they were pretty confident. "We didn't find a lot of familiar faces this time around. There were a lot of young people. But we were very confident because we beat them the last time and we've been working really hard for this and working on our craft. We've been having a lot of friendly matches to prepare for this and so we were confident that we were going to have a good game today," she said.

With this first game and win out of the way, Pablo said this definitely sets the tone for the team in the rest of the tourney. "It sets the tone really, really high, because it's the first game out of four. And yeah, it just gives us more pressure to do better."

In their previous matches which were just friendly games, Pablo was asked what the difference is now that this event is not a friendly one. "It's more intense today—more expectations. We have a goal this time: we have to win; the previous friendlies were a good warm up and it's good preparation for us. Our end goal is this tournament to show whatever we learned in training and all the matches," she said. "So, this has more pressure."

Against Guam in the 2024 Marianas Friendlies tourney last April, the women's team suffered a loss and a last-minute draw. When asked how their mindset is now and how they will tackle their matches against their rival this time around, Pablo said, "we definitely know now what we need to work on against that team. We know a lot of familiar faces. As long as we have confidence and stick to our strengths and work on our weaknesses, I think we'll be good."

Participating teams in this tourney—NMI, Mongolia, and Guam—will challenge each other twice and the squad with the most points (based on win-draw-loss standings) will win the Three Nations Cup.

The NMI Women's National Team with Casarino includes keeper Deseha Mendiola, Christina Atalig, Dianne Pablo, Khristelle Itaas, Julie Chavez, Jannah Casarino, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, Pia Ngewakl, Raven Anderson, Bernadette Horey, Tamia Kileleman-Hix. The substitutes include Mariana Angeles, Aubrey Castro, Megan Elayda, Sophia Quintos, Tyana Kileleman-Hix, Joselyn Atalig, and Toremy Baek. The head coach is Koo Luam Khen.

Mongolia is made up of Zambaga, Ganbolor Tumenjargal, Enerel Sukhbat, Sarangua Boldbaatar, Khaliut Mungkhgarid, Anundari Khasgaa, Oyun-Erdene Bayaraa, Ariunzaya Khanidkhuu, Odon-Erdene Unenbat, Buyandelger Baatarsuren, and Chantsal Bayasgalant. The substitutes consists of Khongordagina Purevynyam, Binderiya Davaasuren, Gantigmaa Chuluuntsend, Oyudari Uyanga, Oyuntuguldur Batsaikhan, Oyuntogos Mart, Nomin Uyanga, Munkhzul Tumurbaatar, and Gankhishig Ganbold. Their head coach is Davaalkhagva Erdene-Ochir.

Last night, Mongolia took on Guam, with results to follow. Tonight, the NMI is going head-to-head against rival Guam at 6pm. Catch the action at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

TJ

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the second heat, the track was perfect as the mud had dried a bit and became tacky. It was a good race overall for everyone and something different instead of dust. I dedicate this win to my beautiful wife, my mom, and dad for always supporting and encouraging me to push myself. I'd like to thank the MRA board members and sponsors for their continuous support and dedication on holding another successful race day for all the racers and families," said Camacho.

Ferrer, meanwhile, lorded it over in the Mini II Class after winning a two-horse raise against Calix Cruz. The former won both heats for 50 points, while Cruz had 44 points.

"It was an amazing win and it was pretty hard most of the time due to the track conditions, but yes it was a good and fun race. The course was wet and muddy especially in the first heat and the weather was really rainy. Thank God the rain stopped in the second heat and the track was just perfect."

The 13-year-old Tanapag Middle School student then thanked his family and Trench Tech Racing Team for their support and MRA president Ellery Cruz for his coaching.

In the Mini ATV Class, Payton Pangelinan beat Nakoa Torres in both heats for 50 points. Torres wound up with 44 points.

MRA president Ellery Cruz, meanwhile, thanked MRA members and their families for continuing to show up and show out in every weather condition at the Cowtown Race Park.

"Sunday's race saw rainy and muddy conditions for Heat 1 and then the sun came out enough to help get the track dry enough to give a perfect tacky condition for great racing in the second heat. We also want to thank the fans that came out to cheer us on, you guys are awesome. MRA would also like to thank IT&E and Monster Energy for sponsoring our event."

He added that the 2024 season is coming to a near close with two races left scheduled to take place on Aug. 4 and 25.

"We invite the entire public to come out and watch our riders battle it out to garner their final points and see who comes out victorious for the 2024 points race season," he said.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang shows off the horseshoe medal for the 9th Happy Leg Ultramarathon 50K.

ANN

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there was no disturbance during the race and the worst part was that it was too boring because I had to run 50K alone."

She finished her third 50K ultramarathon with a time of 4:52:25.

As for the training before the 9th Happy Leg Ultramarathon 50K, Bang said she always tries to join various races with trail runs every weekend.

"I want to share my accomplishments with my family and friends! I miss my group run with my friends on Saipan! There are many ways to do a long-distance run, but in my case, LSD (long slow distance) and daily jogging are the best training to enhance my strength and endurance," she said.

76ers welcome George, welcome back Maxey with all parties in desperate chase for title
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NMI debuts strong with 1-0 win over MNG

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI Women's National Team debuted strong in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup with a 1-0 win over Mongolia at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday.

In front of the home crowd, the NMI women's team put on a show that brought pride and joy to those in attendance.

After a battle on the pitch that favored mostly the NMI team with more possessions and chances at the goal, Jannah Casarino put her best foot forward once again and let one fly past Mongolia's keeper Tumurbat Zambaga in the 66th minute of the second half for a 1-0 advantage.

Before and after that goal, the NMI had opportunities to blow the game wide open but weren't capitalized on. They either couldn't follow through or were trigger happy and overshot the goal.

The one-goal lead then hung in the balance for the final 24 minutes as Mongolia tried to

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LEIGH GASES

The NMI Women's National Team's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez fights for possession against Mongolia's Odon-Erdene Unenbat as they opened their campaign in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup with a win over Mongolia, 1-0, at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday.

'Hollywood,' TJ top respective divisions

TISHA FERRER

T.J. Ferrer in action in the Mini II Class of last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Christian "Hollywood" Camacho and T.J. Ferrer won their respective divisions in last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

Camacho topped his usual bailiwick—the Big Boy ATV Class—with another perfect run after winning both heats for 50 points. Greg Clark was second with 44 points, while Camacho's father, Henry Sr., finished third with 40 points

"The weather was a little rain here in there in the morning and stopped before noon. The track was slippery and muddy with puddles in certain areas, but it wasn't a problem for me as I like racing in the mud," said the younger Camacho about last Sunday's racing conditions.

He said the Dr. Jekyll-and-Mr. Hyde conditions of the Marianas Racing Association track last Sunday, in a way, offered some comic relief for riders and watchers alike.

"The first heat was a bit of laugher as we watched riders struggle getting out of the berms, even going down because of the thick mud. On

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Ann Bang completes another 50K

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang does a Rafael Nadal after completing the 9th Happy Leg Ultramarathon 50K earlier this week in South Korea.

While many of us try to relax on the weekend, Ann Bang has made it a habit of pushing her physical abilities to the extreme and last weekend competed in the 9th Happy Leg Ultramarathon 50K in her home country of South Korea.

The 51-year-old Run Saipan mainstay and other ultramarathoners actually had a nightmarish start to the race as nasty weather conditions forced organizers to cancel the 9th Happy Leg Ultramarathon hours into the 50K race and opt for non-face-to-face competition.

At the time organizers pulled the plug on the 9th Happy Leg Ultramarathon 50K, Bang already ran about 10 kilometers.

"The weather was terrible. Heavy rain and a strong thunderstorm were predicted. The start time was 11pm. Unfortunately, the race was forced to stop precisely at the same time as the Munkyeong 100K Ultramarathon on June 29. Four hundred participants should run along the Han River and several streams near the course, at risk of flooding. So, the organizers decided the race should turn into a non-face-to-face event," she said.

Under the new rules, runners could run anywhere until the next day and that's exactly what Bang did.

"I ran on the jogging course near my house. The original course was relatively easy with flat roads, and my course was also flat and easy. The best part of my race was that

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